SPORTS / A25

Cardinals nip Tigers, move to within a win of World Series title

BUSINESS/ B1

Imports jumped 15.3% in Aug. to P4.89B due to increased demand for RP electronics

WORLD / A21

Bush signs law to build wall along US-Mexican border

NEWS / A2

DOJ asks BIR to probe Mark Jimenez over P2.5-B Internet system he sold to PLDT

If he asks for money for a prayer, he's fake

..AT HINDI HUMIHINGI NG LAGAY ANG MGA PARI

By Christian V. Esguerra

HE WEARS A ROMAN collar, carries a Bible and offers to say a prayer or bless a departed loved one.

He speaks words of

IF HE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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'Con-ass may succeed, but it will be bloody'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

CHARTER CHANGE MAY STILL SUCCEED through the constituent assembly that the House of Representatives is planning to convene, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said yesterday.

She said that while the process could be "bloody," it could be defended in the Supreme Court and could be held after the May 2007 elections.

'CON-ASS MAY/ A4

It's Palace vs 'The Firm'

SC vote on Cha-cha confirms falling out

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

"THE FIRM" DOES NOT SEEM TO SEE EYE TO eye with its most important client, President Macapagal-Arroyo, on Charter change.

A Malacañang official, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio's caustic opinion rejecting the people's initiative petition only showed that Ms Arroyo did not have the backing of her most trusted law firm as far as her goal of amending the Constitution was concerned.

Carpio, together with Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. and F. Arthur L. Villaraza, formed the Carpio Villaraza & Cruz (now known as Villaraza & Angangco) law firm in 1980. Its fortunes as one of the country's biggest law firms have been inextricably linked to the President and her husband, thereby earning the moniker "The Firm."

The President appointed Carpio to the high court on Oct. 22, 2001. He is among the 10 Arroyo appointees (including Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban) in the tribunal—the biggest number in any administration.

"He (Carpio) is the intellectual force against Charter change among the justices. We've always suspected The Firm to be against Charter change, and his vote confirms this," said the Malacañang official.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez appears to be also blaming The Firm for the killing of the people's initiative.

"I think there's a big law firm that is cheering ... that [it] defeated Malacañang," he told reporters.

Gonzalez did not name the firm, but in a subsequent interview with the INQUIRER, he indirectly gave its identity away when he said the reason why it worked to junk the initiative petition was its failure to bag the top

IT'S PALACE/ A4

位：
工商部
駐廈門
事館
位：
PANGULO NG

"ALL TIME HIGH," is how President Arroyo describes Philippines-China relations during her speech before a group of Filipino and Chinese businessmen at the Xianglu Hotel, Xiamen City, Fujian. Ms Arroyo is on a 5-day visit to China.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

GMA to China: Make RP investment site

By Christine O. Avendaño

XIAMEN (via PLDT)—WITH A BIG delegation that included her Charter change (Cha-cha) allies and her in-laws as well, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday flew into China and urged Asia's largest economy to make the Philippines a "destination for greater investment."

Ms Arroyo described Philippine-Chinese relations as "at an all-time high" and made a pitch for China to invest in Philippine mining and infrastructure, among other areas.

Soon after her arrival, Ms Arroyo witnessed the signing of several agreements that aim to enhance trade and investment between the two countries.

"We look forward to the day when China substantially raises the level of investments in the Philippines," she said at a luncheon given in her honor by Chinese businessmen at the Xianglu Hotel. *(See related story on Page A9.)*

With a delegation that included a huge group of Chinese-Filipino businessmen, including Philippine Airlines owner Lucio Tan, the President arrived at 11 a.m. yesterday to warm greetings from Xiamen officials, who organized a "dragon dance" near where her chartered plane landed.

Meeting with a delegation from the 500-member Filipino community, Ms Arroyo noted that while there were only a small number of Filipinos in Xiamen, "you are highly regarded" by the Chinese because they were professionals.

GMA TO CHINA/ A6

REM ZAMORA

ALL'S WELL that ends well. And the nursing board passers are exhilarated. After four months of waiting, they take their oath by batches at the PRC starting Friday.

Nurses wake at dawn to take oath, move on

By Leila B. Salaverria

LIZA RASTROLLO, A 48-YEAR-old mother, rose up well before dawn, left her Laguna home at 4:30 a.m. and arrived at the offices of the Professional Regulation Commission in Manila hours before the gates opened. She just wanted to make sure there would be no more hitch in her taking the Florence Nightingale pledge.

Four months of anxiety and recriminations ended yesterday for Rastrollo and the thousands of other passers of the scandal-smeared nursing board examination.

Cheering, clapping and hugging each other, they finally took their oaths to become full-fledged members of the nursing profession.

The cheering inside the PRC auditorium hadn't died when Dante Ang, head of the

NURSES WAKE/ A6

Tessie Sy still on 'most powerful women' list

FILIPINO BUSINESSWOMAN Tessie Sy-Coson has again landed in Fortune Magazine's list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in International Business.

Sy-Coson, vice chair of SM Investment Corp. and eldest daughter of retail magnate Henry Sy, placed 46th in the 2006 Fortune list, retaining the ranking she had last year.

She is so far the only Filipina to make it to the Fortune list.

This is also the sixth year that Sy-Coson was named to the list which appeared in the magazine's Oct. 23, 2006 issue.

"I hope it will bring us more business," Sy-Coson said in reaction to her latest inclusion in the Fortune list.

"Sy-Coson, the eldest daughter of retail tycoon Henry Sy, scored big this year with the opening of the Mall of Asia in Manila, one of the largest malls in the world," writes Fortune Magazine's Jenny Mero. "Foot traffic hit record numbers, which will surely boost revenues ($1 billion last year) at the holding company.

Sy-Coson's responsibility in the SM group, built by her father in 1958, covers a wide sector. She is also the vice chair of Equitable Banking Corp., the

TESSIE/ A8

JESS YUSON

FIERY END: Banned liquids confiscated from passengers explode, go up in smoke while being flattened. *(Story on Page A6.)*

Jollibee COO is Asia's top corporate citizen

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

HONG KONG—ERNESTO TANMANTIONG of fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. has been awarded Asia's Corporate Citizen of the Year during the 5th CNBC Asia Business Leaders Awards held here late Thursday, in recognition of his sharing corporate success with the community.

Tanmantiong, Jollibee's executive vice president and chief operating officer, was cited for having translated profits into benefits for the community, specifically in the fields of education, environment and community development.

Tanmantiong was the lone Filipino in the elite group of top Asia

JOLLIBEE / A8

US poll computers can be hacked, experts show

WASHINGTON—NEW ELECTRONIC voting machines to be used in the upcoming US legislative polls are raising concerns after several blunders that have revived memories of Florida's 2000 presidential election debacle.

Americans will vote in state and local elections on Nov. 7 and for members of the US House of Representatives and Senate.

"Anything is possible," warned Kimball Brace, head of the political consulting firm US Election Data Services.

"We've got more than a third of the nation voting on something new this year and history has shown that the first time somebody uses a new piece of voting equipment, that's the time that they are going to have problems."

Brace said nearly 40 percent of voters on election day will be using paperless touch-screen machines that have raised concerns among many experts nationwide as they leave no paper trail and are vulnerable to hackers.

Their vulnerability was embarrassingly brought to light by Edward Felten, a professor of computer science at Princeton University in New Jersey, who demonstrated to Congress last month how he could hack into the machines and switch votes from one candidate to another.

Many US states tossed out their antiquated voting systems after the "hanging chads" confusion of the 2000 presidential election in Florida that spurred Congress to ban the use of punchcard ballots and prompted many states to adopt electronic voting.

Some 63 percent of voters are set to use new electronic voting machines during the Nov. 7 elections but enthusiasm for the new technology is low among voting officials nationwide because of a number of mishaps during recent primary elections.

US POLL/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Eastern Luzon which may trigger flashfloods or landslides. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/27/06 SOURCE PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Gonzalez goes after Jimenez

BIR ordered to probe trader for tax evasion

By Armand N. Nocum

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TRAINED ITS GUNS ON businessman Mark Jimenez, moving to have the former Manila representative investigated for possible tax evasion, for the source of his highly visible wealth and for going around with even more police escorts than the justice secretary.

In a letter to Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday asked the revenue agency to probe the reported P2.5-billion sale of Meridian Telekoms to Philippine Long Distance Co. and Smart Communications in 2004.

Meridian used to be owned by the family of Jimenez, a crony of jailed President Joseph Estrada who once admiringly described Jimenez as a "corporate genius."

According to Gonzalez, the inquiry should determine whether Jimenez paid the proper taxes when he sold Meridian Telekoms, a provider of high-speed data and Internet services using wireless broadband technology, to Smart, a wholly owned subsidiary of PLDT.

"I am interested in the information as to whether or not in this transaction, all taxes due to the government have been paid, as well as the regularity of the transfer considering that... the signatory to the sale transaction was a certain Myla Crespo/Jimenez," Gonzalez said in his letter.

In an interview, Gonzalez said the sale of Meridian, the first local telecommunications firm to focus primarily on high-speed data and Internet services using wireless broadband technology, was consummated sometime in September 2004.

He said the purchase price was $45 million, or about P2.5 billion, to be given in seven installments.

Last week, the DOJ chief also asked the Anti-Money Laundering Council (Amlac) to investigate the source of the money of Jimenez, whose real name is Mario Crespo.

Gonzalez noted that Jimenez, who returned to the country in December 2005 after serving for two years in a United States prison after being convicted of tax evasion, fraud and election financing offenses, has been throwing millions of pesos to various groups as donations.

He stressed that the legal threshold for Amlac to initiate an investigation of any person maintaining bank accounts was only P500,000.

"I am asking the Amlac to investigate the source of the money of former Congressman Mark Jimenez. If he is throwing P5 million to P10 million somewhere else, we should know the source of his money," he said.

Jimenez earlier pledged P50 million to support the distressed plan holders of the Pacific Plan pre-need firm organized into the Parents Enabling Parents (PEP).

In another letter to Philippine National Police Chief Director General Oscar Calderon, Gonzalez asked why Jimenez was recently seen in a convoy being escorted by six uniformed Eastern Police District (EPD) policemen.

This was on top of Jimenez's personal bodyguards who were all heavily armed, he said.

He seriously doubted the claim of EPD chief Col. Ramon Labora that the six lawmen escorting Jimenez were on a routine inspection.

JIMENEZ

GONZALEZ

"I am the secretary of justice and I have only two policemen security. My son, Congressman Raul Gonzalez, Jr., does not even have a policeman security and yet Jimenez has six policemen security. He must be a very important person to be given such protection," Gonzalez said in his letter.

...He also bars Ocampo from leaving

By Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER LINKING UP WITH PARLIAMENTARIans in three European countries, party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo returned to Manila late Thursday only to fly out again the next day for another round of meetings in Japan.

But unknown to the globe-trotting militant leader, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had quietly issued a hold-departure order against his latest trip.

Immigration authorities stopped him from boarding a Northwest Airlines flight for Japan at 8:05 a.m. yesterday.

Immigration officials said Ocampo was a "flight risk," but Gonzalez told reporters that the Bayan Muna party-list representative would be better off staying put as he would only continue to "attack" the Arroyo government in the international arena.

Ocampo, who has just returned from what he described as "a successful three-country European campaign tour," was set to take to Japan his international campaign against the "Arroyo administration's extrajudicial killings and political persecution" which he said has claimed the lives of 118 Bayan Muna members since 2001.

OCAMPO

His European trip from Oct. 13 to 26 had brought him to Geneva, Brussels and London where, he said, "receptive audiences" eagerly listened to his call for international action against the wave of extrajudicial killings.

Ocampo challenged the legality of Gonzalez's hold-departure order and maintained that the justice secretary should apply for one from the courts.

"That is a putrid, brazen political harassment," he said as he unpacked his luggage in his Quezon City residence.

Gonzalez's resolve to enforce the hold-departure order will be tested again today as Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Cesar Untalan has issued a travel order to Ocampo who has again booked a flight for Japan early this morning.

Untalan on Thursday issued an order in open court granting Ocampo's petition to be allowed to travel abroad, but the verbal order was largely ignored by the authorities.

Ocampo said he was considering filing charges of harassment, violation of his constitutional right to travel, prior restraint and political persecution against Gonzalez and immigration officials.

He insisted that he was not a flight risk as he has left the country four times since rebellion charges were filed against him for the Februar failed coup and has always returned.

Ocampo said the funds that he would b spending for his trip came from his saving and from "sponsors."

Sandigan allows Erap to visit mom occasionally

By Norman Bordadora

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS ALLOWED DEtained former President Joseph Estrada to vi it her ailing 102-year-old mother Mary Ejerc to occasionally.

The special division trying Estrada for plunder, however, required the former President to file a motion informing the court of the details of his visitation plans whenever he plans to leave his estate in Tanay, Rizal where he is currently detained.

"(The) Court hereby grants the accused former President's prayer to visit his ailing mother but only on the specific date, time, place and conditions as may be designated by the Court after an appropriate motion for each visit is filed by the accused-movant," the court said.

Estrada earlier asked the Sandiganbayan for permission to visit his mother every Friday until Sunday after the ex-president was informed by her mother's doctors that she has been bedridden with poor food intake.

The doctors added that her mental health has deteriorated and that there was an imminent rupture of the abdominal aneurysm "which invariably would be fatal."

"While in its comment, the prosecution does not interpose any objection to the accused former President's motion, it however requires that the said motion be specific; that a motion be filed every time there is a need for the accused to visit his mother," said the court.

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New storm coming, says Pagasa

ANOTH 'R TROPICAL CYCLONE, THE 16TH TO enter th country this year, is expected to make landfall ·rly next week over the Sierra Madre Mountains and cut across northern Luzon.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, geophysical and Astronomical Services administration, the storm, locally named "Paeng," developed from an active low pressure area east of the Bicol Region and was spotted on Friday 720 kms east southeast of Catanduanes. It was packing maximum winds of 55 kph near the center, and moving west northwest at 19 kph toward Pangasinan.

No public storm signals have been raised but disaster coordinating councils concerned are advised to take appropriate actions, Pagasa said in its bulletin. Last month, Typhoon "Milenyo" (international name Xangsane) left 230 people dead and missing as it ripped through Manila and neighboring provinces.

'Paeng' entry good news for Luzon farmers

MALOLOS CITY—METRO MANILA RESIDENTS may groan at news of a new typhoon approaching. But for officials of the National Irrigation Administration manning Central Luzon's vital Angat dam, it is a prayer answered.

Despite repeated bouts of recent flash floods in Metro Manila, not enough rain has fallen in the Central Luzon watershed area of Angat. This is the cause of the reported drop in the reservoir's water level, which is worrying officials of the National Irrigation Administration.

The reservoir, located in the boundary of Aurora and Quezon and Bulacan provinces, is the main source of potable water for Metro Manila households and business establishments, as well as the irrigation source for over 26,000 hectares farmlands, considered the country's main rice granary. The National Power Corporation also mans a hydroelectric station in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Manuel Collado, chief of the National Irrigation Administration in Central Luzon, said the water level at the dam as of 3 p.m. Friday was 192.4 meters—seven meters below the 199-meter ideal level at the dam.

Five recent typhoons, including the devastating "Milenyo," did not dump enough water in the watershed area to increase the dam's level. "Milenyo brought more wind than rain," said Collado.

Rodolfo Santos, chief of the provincial disaster coordinating council in Bulacan, described the water level at the dam as "abnormal." At this time of the year, the reservoir's water level should be between 200 and 202 meters, Santos added. On the same date last year, water level at the dam was 199.81 meters.

Earlier, officials of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System said they would start lessening the supply of water in several areas in Metro Manila and nearby areas due to the low water level at Angat reservoir. At least 46 cubic meters per second are withdrawn from Angat for Metro Manila's water needs.

Collado said there were instances in the past when the NIA suspended water delivery to the farms to meet Metro Manila's water needs. NIA needs to release 28 cubic meters per second for irrigation, he said.

Meanwhile, Gloria Carillo, chief of the Bulacan agriculture office, is encouraging rice farmers to shift to alternative crops in the next few months due to the expected low supply of irrigation water from Angat reservoir.

She said information from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) showed that a dry spell due to El Niño will affect the country from January to February next year. *Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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It's Palace vs 'The Firm'

From page A1

post of the Office of the Ombudsman.

He claimed that the firm had wanted to get a former member—Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez—appointed Ombudsman.

That post eventually went to Merceditas Gutierrez, who, in a recent dinner with INQUIRER editors and reporters, was openly critical of The Firm. She said it was behind many of the purported irregularities in the government.

Asked whether the high court's 52-page, strongly worded decision, as written by Carpio, would amount to The Firm declaring war on Malacañang, Gonzalez replied: "I suppose so. Maybe."

Stinging words

A top lawyer, who also asked not to be named, said legal circles had been abuzz with talk about a purported falling-out between Ms Arroyo and The Firm over some soured deals.

The lawyer said Carpio's vote on the initiative petition appeared to have bolstered the talk.

Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff, refused to comment on speculations of frayed ties between her and The Firm.

But he disclosed that the President was "perplexed" by the action of some of the justices, especially her appointees, not because they objected to the people's initiative but because of the "stinging" words they used.

"If you read some of the opinions, you would think that these were written, not by [people] in the legal profession, but [people] who have a personal ax to grind with the President," he said.

Defensor said it was but natural for Ms Arroyo to take the matter personally because she had strongly endorsed the people's initiative that her handpicked justices later described not only as a mistake but also "a grand deception."

"The President does not mind them disagreeing with her on some issue because they have to be independent. But she takes it badly when the criticisms are too much," Defensor said without naming names.

"She's really perplexed that those she picked for the position would turn out to have the harshest opinions," he said.

The Carpio-written decision said in part: "To allow this constitutionally infirm initiative, propelled by deceptively gathered signatures, to alter basic principles in the Constitution is to allow a desecration of [it]. To allow such alteration and desecration is to lose this court's *raison d'être.*"

It also said: "An initiative that gathers signatures from the people without first showing to the people the full text of the proposed amendments is most likely a deception, and can operate as a gigantic fraud on the people."

Reversing himself

Gonzalez took a swipe at Chief Justice Panganiban for purportedly voting to junk the initiative petition only "to project to the whole world that the Supreme Court is independent."

In his separate concurring opinion, Panganiban said that the high court was at "the crossroads of history," that its decision would be talked about in history "either in shame or in pride," and that in this case, it decided to uphold its "independence, integrity, industry and intelligence."

Gonzalez said Panganiban "reversed himself" from his decision in the 1997 Santiago v. Comelec case when he voted along with the minority that a people's initiative was sufficient to effect changes in the Constitution.

"He went around 360 degrees ... We were hoping that maybe at least, he would abstain because he had already taken a [differing] position ..." Gonzalez said.

"To me, it's quite clear that the Supreme Court was in a hurry to resolve this case. They are in a hurry that the time will run out for the motion for reconsideration to be decided before Panganiban retires [in December]," he said.

Cake and then some

Justice Carpio yesterday received a cake and glowing praise from groups opposed to Charter change—and something far less appealing from the initiative proponents.

Efren de Luna, secretary general of the Sigaw ng Bayan, called on Carpio to resign for his strongly worded decision on the initiative petition.

"Justice Carpio should resign. His decision made it appear as if those who signed the petition had been duped and lied to," De Luna told reporters at the Ambassador Hotel forum.

De Luna said Sigaw members were hurt that doubt had been cast on the authenticity of the 6.3 million signatures gathered.

He said Sigaw planned to hold protest actions in Metro Manila, to be attended by the signatories, so that they could affirm their support for the people's initiative and show the warm bodies behind the signatures.

Asked why it was only Carpio's head, and not also those of the seven concurring justices, that he was asking for, De Luna said Carpio was the *ponente* and the magistrate who had introduced the idea that the signatures were not authentic.

"We saw that he was the one who originally gave the bad idea that the signatures were not real," De Luna said.

'Our own opinion'

But Ramon Guiam, secretary general of Sigaw member Aguman Pilipino, said his group was not calling for Carpio's resignation.

"We have our own opinion. Our position is we respect the decision of Carpio. We are not calling on him to resign," Guiam said.

But he said Aguman Pilipino, which is made up of Pampanga natives, would continue to push for Charter change: "We will wait, we will pray. We will go through the proper process to change the Constitution."

Guiam claimed that Aguman Pilipino had paid for the advertisements in the media backing Charter change.

According to him, the group got the money from its members, who include businessmen. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

IN THE KNOW

VILLARAZA: Principal sponsor

CARPIO: Stinging words

CARPIO VILLARAZA & CRUZ changed its name to Villaraza & Angangco when its founding partners, Avelino Cruz Jr. and Antonio Carpio, joined the Arroyo administration.

"The Firm" has long and deep ties with the Macapagal and Arroyo families—ties that supposedly started in the 1980s when it moved into the LTA Building in Makati City. (LTA stands for Lourdes Tuason Arroyo, mother of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.)

It still holds office there.

Sally Villaraza, wife of the other founding partner, F. Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, is a close friend of the Macapagals. In 2002, she was among the principal sponsors at the wedding of Mikey Arroyo, the First Couple's elder son.

In 2003, Pancho Villaraza stood as a principal sponsor at the wedding of the First Couple's other son, Dato.

The Firm is believed to wield much influence with the President.

In 2001, Ms Arroyo appointed Carpio and Cruz as Supreme Court associate justice and chief presidential legal counsel, respectively.

In 2002, Simeon Marcelo's appointment as Ombudsman was said to have had the blessing of The Firm, where he used to head the litigation department.

Marcelo resigned as Ombudsman in 2005.

In 2004, after serving as chief presidential legal counsel, Cruz was named defense secretary.

At present, The Firm has more than 50 lawyers and more than 100 nonlegal staff. ***Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research***

Cha-cha backer says Panganiban eyeing Senate

By Christine O. Avendaño

XIAMEN—CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PANganiban is running for senator in the May 2007 elections under the opposition banner, if Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone is to be believed.

Evardone, who is in this city as part of the official delegation accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo in her trip to China, claimed that Panganiban's purported candidacy was the talk going around the "Senate circle."

"They're saying that [Panganiban] wants to do a Fernan," he said, referring to the late Senate president and former chief justice.

After Fernan retired as chief justice, he sought and won a seat in the Senate and went on to head the chamber.

He then sought the presidency but eventually decided to run for vice president, and ended up losing to Joseph Estrada.

"We have heard that he (Panganiban) might run, and I will not be surprised if he will be picked up by the opposition," Evardone said.

Panganiban is set to retire in December. He drew the ire of proponents of the people's initiative to amend the Constitution—including the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) to which Evardone belongs—after the high court voted 8-7 on Wednesday to dismiss their petition.

He is said to have cast the swing vote that decided the fate of the petition.

No way

Asked whether he thought Panganiban would be a "winnable" candidate, Evardone said the Chief Justice would lose.

"He will not win because do you think the 6.3 million people who signed our petition will vote for him? Of course not," he told reporters in Filipino.

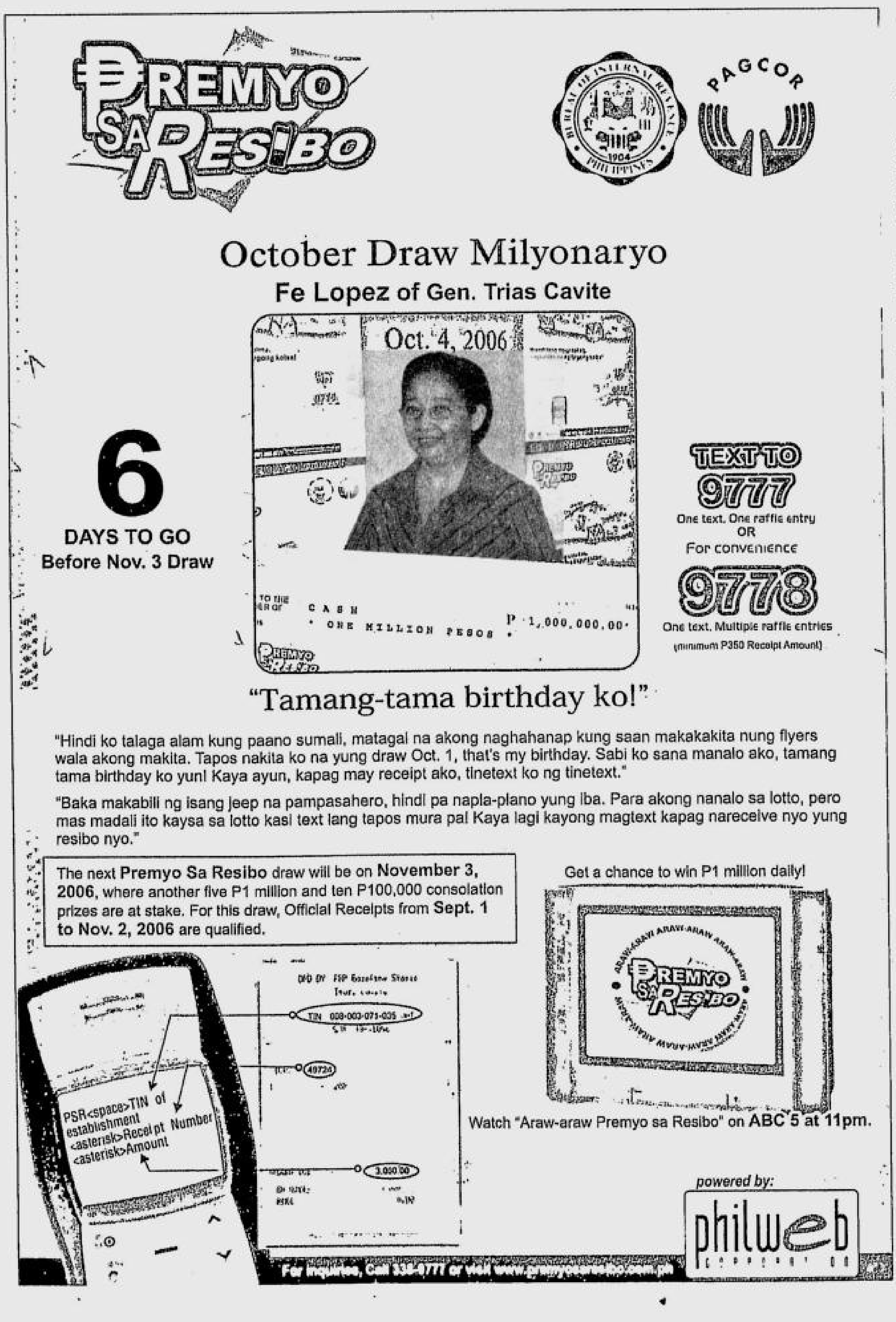
Furthermore, local government units will "campaign against those who are against Charter change," Evardone said, adding:

"If ever he runs, I will not be surprised if the LGUs will actively campaign against him."

Evardone reiterated that Ulap was considering appealing the high court's decision in order to, among others, "refute" its assessment that the exercise to gather millions of signatures for the people's initiative was a grand deception."

"Of course we will respect and abide [by the decision], but it does not mean that we are barred from filing a [motion for reconsideration]," he said.

But should Ulap and Sigaw ng Bayan lose the case again, Evardone said, they would push for the third mode to amend the Charter—by way of a constitutional convention. (The second mode after the people's initiative is a constituent assembly.)



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'Con-ass may succeed ...

From page A1

Santiago supports the holding of a constituent assembly to amend the 1987 Constitution by a three-fourths vote of all the members of Congress voting jointly, provided that any number of senators take part in the process.

She said she and at least four other senators—Edgardo Angara, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and Manuel "Lito" Lapid—were willing to participate in such an assembly.

But the majority of senators say there is no way the assembly can happen because, they say, the Charter provides that the two chambers vote separately, as in the passage of simple legislation.

The Senate stands to be abolished under the proposed unicameral-parliamentary system.

Sen. Franklin Drilon yesterday served notice that the Senate would question before the Supreme Court the House resolution paving the way for the convening of a constituent assembly if it would be approved by the lower chamber in plenary.

"Yes, we will block it," Drilon, who is among those firmly opposing the Malacañang-backed move to amend the Charter, told the INQUIRER. "We have a standing resolution that we must vote separately."

Early last month, the House committee on constitutional amendments passed Resolution No. 1230 seeking to convene Congress into a constituent assembly and proposing actual amendments. It is a follow-up to Resolution 26, which the House sent to the Senate in November 2005.

House leaders believe that the Constitution allows them to amend the Charter on their own so long as they can muster the required number of votes.

But the senators have disputed this view, and passed a resolution stating that any amendment in a constituent assembly would need their concurrence.

'Deliberately vague'

Santiago, a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the Constitution was "deliberately vague by oversight" on whether the two chambers had to vote jointly when tackling amendments. She said some parts of the Charter specified separate voting.

"Definitely, the proponents of a constituent assembly will argue that the Constitution does not use [the phrase] 'voting separately,'" she said, adding that "maybe the Supreme Court can be persuaded if the case is argued properly."

Santiago said the House would pass a resolution convening the constituent assembly and "inviting" the Senate to participate in it. She said this had to be done because the Senate would not approve the House concurrent resolution calling on the two chambers to sit as a constituent assembly.

The assembly will be valid when it is "joined by any number of senators," not necessarily all 23 of them, she said.

Tyranny of numbers

Santiago said the Senate could not prevent or censure her and others of like mind from taking part in the constituent assembly.

"Can the Senate majority exercise tyranny of numbers? Can they punish us, in what manner, and by what army?" she said.

Santiago admitted that the constituent assembly would be "just as bloody" as the people's initiative that the Supreme Court threw out on Wednesday.

"It's even worse actually, in a certain way, because we have no precedent at all on whether the Senate has the power to exercise veto power by its sheer inaction on a resolution of the House to convene a constituent assembly," she said.

Santiago said the assembly "would have to take place after" the May 2007 elections.

She contradicted those who predicted it would have no chances under a new Congress, saying that while the Senate was dominated by the opposition or those critical of Malacañang, the situation could change if more administration-friendly candidates were elected.

"So the administration will pull out all the stops to have its candidates elected," she said.

Santiago also said the defeat of the people's initiative in the high court did not diminish the President's political leadership.

"Unfortunately in our country, people do not vote on issues but on personalities," she said.

Back at high court

But Sen. Joker Arroyo, who had argued against the people's initiative in behalf of the Senate before the Supreme Court, predicted that the constituent assembly would eventually be questioned before the tribunal.

"If they will convene the constituent assembly and try to do it without the participation of the Senate, that will again get to the Supreme Court. So all roads lead to the Supreme Court," he told reporters Thursday afternoon.

If and when the Senate decides to question the matter before the high court, it will again be backed by the advocacy group OneVoice, which on Thursday also promised to block a Senate-less constituent assembly.

60,000 foreclosed homes to be sold by gov't

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT IS SELLING SOME 60,000 foreclosed housing units worth an estimated P6 billion through the holding of a yearly housing fair for employees of the government and the private sector.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro, who led the opening of the two-day housing auction in Makati City, said the sale would continue until April 2007 to give potential buyers more time to choose from the various repossessed houses of government financial institutions. Simultaneous housing fairs were also being held in Cebu and Davao cities.

The President dropped by the Glorietta Mall in the morning to join De Castro in the televised "Ugnayang Pabahay" forum to answer queries from the audience before proceeding to the airport for her five-day official trip to China.

30 percent target

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), expressed confidence that his agency would be able to dispose of at least 30 percent of the houses by the end of the housing fair next year.

During the interaction, the President said she was pleased with HUDCC's decision to dispose of the idle houses at discounted rates as this would help generate income for the government and at the same time provide decent housing to employees.

De Castro said that most of the houses were turned over by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas which got them as payments from private banks for their financial obligations.

The BSP, he said, has increased its discount offer from 10 to 15 percent for cash buyers.

On the other hand, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has increased its discount on occupied units from 10 to 20 percent. It will also give five percent discount to cash buyers.

Higher discount

The Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC) is offering a higher discount of 20 percent from the original 10 percent, while the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) has increased its discount from 10 to to 15 percent for all cash buyers.

De Castro said the Pag-Ibig Fund has also lowered its interest rate for the housing fair at six percent on all units, and reduced the down payment from 10 percent to only five percent. It initially assigned interest rates of nine percent for housing units valued over P300,000 and six percent for units below this amount.

The National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) also lowered its interest rate to six percent for all units at book value, with payment terms of up to 25 years.

De Castro said up to 25 percent discount was offered by Land Bank of the Philippines to cash buyers.

Keen interest

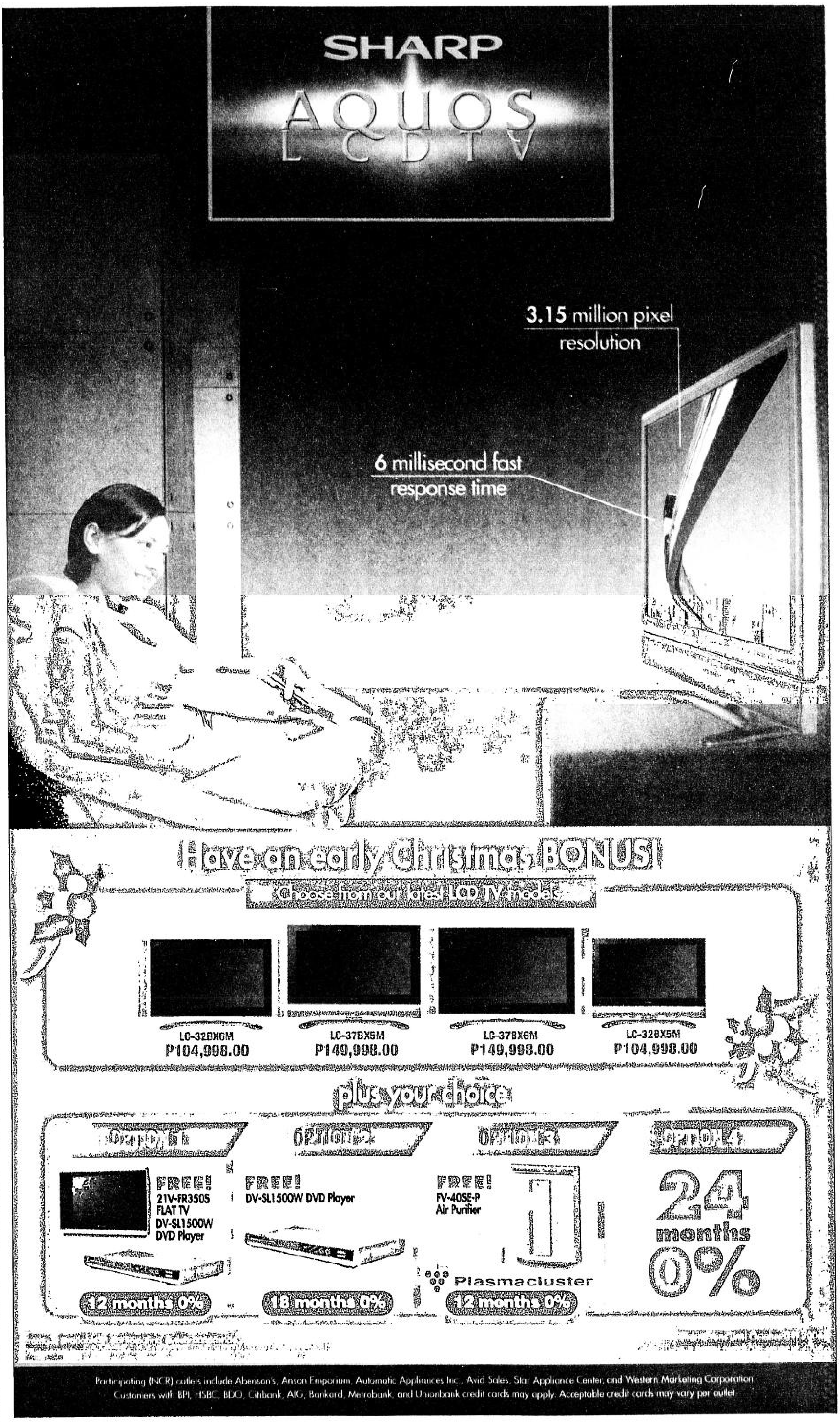
De Castro said the last minute "improvements" in discounts were a response to the overwhelming interest showed by government employees to affordable housing deals.

"We have been receiving many inquiries ever since we announced the housing fair, and we thought that we could convert more of these into actual purchases and achieve the objective of the program by offering even bigger discounts and better interest rates," De Castro said.

He said the nationwide housing sale was initially open only to government employees, but the Social Security Systems (SSS) and the Pag-Ibig Fund also offered their foreclosed housing units to their respective members from the private sector.

De Castro estimated that more than 1,000 government employees took part in the housing fair at Glorietta.

"This is supposed to be for government employees but we decided to open it to the general public especially for low salaried workers," he said.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FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE would have approved: The Board of Nursing finally administers the oath to passers of the nursing board last June at the Professional Regulation Commission auditorium.

REM ZAMORA

Nurses wake at dawn to take oath: 'Now we can move on'

From page A1

Presidential Commission on Filipino Overseas Workers, injected a sour note.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Ang said that in his recent meetings with officials of the United States National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), they told him that if a similar leakage had happened in the United States as what occurred during the nursing licensure examination here in June, they would have ordered a retake of the whole exam.

In fact, Ang said NCSBN president Faith Fields had told him that a nursing board exam in one US state was also wracked by a leakage scandal and the NCSBN ordered a retake of the whole exam to solve the problem.

The NCSBN administers the US National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). Passing the NCLEX would qualify a Filipino nurse for jobs in US hospitals and health centers.

Around 80 percent of NCLEX examinees come from the Philippines.

Ang's remarks may well have sounded irrelevant to Rastrollo and to Gringo San Diego, 20, an accountant's son and the topnotcher of the controversial June tests.

"I'm very, very happy because now we can move on," said San Diego, who was among the 4,000 new nurses who took their oaths in batches at the PRC compound yesterday.

"Our plans were disrupted during our four months of waiting. At least, now we can make them happen," he said.

End of agony

San Diego dreams of someday working in a US hospital.

The young Pampango said he would begin reviewing for the NCLEX but that before going abroad, he wanted to work for at least a year in a Philippine hospital.

"We are all very happy that finally their agony is over," said school dean Antonio Lim, who attended the oath-taking of 85 new nurses in Tacloban City.

First batch

Yesterday's first batch of 200 oath-takers at the PRC office in Manila swore their allegiance to the nursing profession and its principles at the PRC auditorium at 8:30 a.m. The 30-minute ceremony included a prayer and a message from the Board of Nursing chair.

The integrity of the June exam came under a cloud after disclosures that questions to Tests III and V had been leaked to reviewees in Baguio and Manila.

This led to the stopping twice of the oath-taking of the 17,821 who were initially announced to have passed, and to changes in the list of passers.

Integrity of the exam

The Court of Appeals first stopped the oath-taking following a petition filed by some nursing college professors and graduates, who questioned the PRC's decision to recompute the scores in a bid to nullify the effects of the leakage.

The petitioners said they wanted to preserve the exams' integrity and supported a retake, but the PRC maintained that a retake was unnecessary.

The scandal also split the ranks of the passers.

On Oct. 13, the appellate court invalidated the PRC's recomputation of grades and ordered the retake of Tests III and V of the exam by the 1,687 graduates who had been added to the list of passers after the recomputation.

Nationwide uproar

The court also ordered the reinstatement to the list of passers of 1,186 graduates whose names were removed from the list following the recomputation.

The scandal kicked off a nationwide uproar and prompted calls for Malacañang to step in. It later designated Labor Secretary Arturo Brion to handle the bomb.

On Wednesday, after a conciliation meeting attended by opposing parties, the CA said there was no legal impediment to the oath-taking.

Cheers in the auditorium

Many, like Rastrollo, came to the PRC offices in Manila hours before they opened.

By 7:30 a.m., the line of people in white nurses' uniforms that had formed outside the PRC's gates along Paredes Street in Sampaloc had snaked for several hundred feet, reaching all the way to España.

The oath-taking, administered by the BON, was done in batches and on a first-come, first-served basis because the auditorium could only hold about 200 to 300 people.

When the first batch of oath-takers was asked to stand up prior to reading their oaths, many of them gave howls of joy.

Challenge to new nurses

Cheers and clapping erupted after they completed their oaths. Some hugged each other while others shook hands.

"At last," said Rastrollo, a mother of two nursing students and who used to be a housewife before she decided to take up nursing. She arrived at the PRC at 5:45 a.m.

Calling on the passers to reflect on the doubts that had been cast on their competence, BON chair Eufemia Octaviano told the first batch of oath-takers:

"Wherever you shall be in the future, show them, whoever they are, that you are competent because you passed the licensure examination. Your competence can only be measured when you are on your job ... You are the only one who can tell the world that you are competent."

Among those who took the oath was UST graduate Bambi Tesorero, who led the Florence Nightingale pledge in her batch of oath-takers.

Tesorero said she would have been amenable to a retake if that had been the decision.

"I've been waiting too long," she said.

Tacloban City

In Tacloban City, 85 nurses took their oaths before the director of the PRC in Eastern Visayas.

The court decision to allow the passers to take their oaths so surprised Agnelet Lobelia Obana, 21, that she attended the oath-taking ceremony wearing just a T-shirt and denim jeans.

Obana was on her way to the city from her hometown of Capoocan, Leyte, when she received a text message from a classmate about the oath-taking to be held at the PRC regional office.

Margaret Leslie Bandoy, 21, who landed No. 10 in the June exam, said: "We can now look for a job."

'Wear your badge proudly'

In a message to the newly inducted nurses, PRC regional director German Palabyab urged them "to always wear your badge proudly."

"Prove to them (the critics) that you deserve to be in this profession. Today's oath-taking is symbolic in your life as a professional nurse," he said.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER, Dante Ang said Fields had called the method used by the PRC in the recomputation of the June results was "unprecedented."

"We couldn't believe it," Ang quoted Fields as saying.

But Ang quickly qualified that the NCSBN officials had made it clear they would not dictate on Philippine authorities on how to resolve the controversy. *With a report from Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

Seized liquid up in flames

By Nikko Dizon

HOW DO YOU DISPOSE OF LIQuid and gel items confiscated from air passengers? You run them down with a "pison" (steam roller), watch them burst into flames and hope the public takes the liquid ban more seriously.

Thousands of liquid and gel items confiscated from air travellers burst into flames when the airport authority tried to crush them with a "pison" yesterday afternoon.

A 50-meter carpet of mostly perfume bottles, cosmetic jars and toothpaste tubes was laid out on the parking lot at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1, fronting the nearby building of the 1st Police Center for Aviation Security (PCAS) of the police Aviation Security Group (ASG).

Seconds after Rosevelt Anito drove his steam roller over the confiscated items, fire started shooting up in the air.

The explosions and flames sent airport officials, including general manager Alfonso Cusi, the media, and spectators scampering away to safety.

Officials frantically directed Anito to steer the steam roller away from the items lined up on the ground to prevent the fire from getting out of hand.

Even then, there were intermittent explosions and bursts of flames. Calls were made to dispatch a fire truck but only a small pressure washer arrived several minutes later to extinguish the fire.

Friction

"*Yung* friction *pagdaan ng pison siguro ang nagsimula ng sunog* (There was friction when the steam roller ran over the items. That started the fire). Obviously, there was a chemical reaction," Cusi told reporters at the scene.

The Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) rejected suggestions to donate the confiscated items because some of them could already be expired and might be harmful to the recipients.

Cusi said the airport authority decided to destroy the confiscated items to show the public that these were not being pilfered by airport personnel. Besides, the items which already filled up 115 balikbayan boxes were starting to eat up precious storage space.

The Miaa tried to downplay yesterday's apparent boo-boo, saying that the incident simply showed the hazards caused by bringing aerosols inside an aircraft.

Cusi again appealed to passengers to put liquid and gel items in their checked luggage to avoid getting confiscated at the final security check at the domestic and international airports as the ban had not yet been lifted.

No jumping

Anito told the INQUIRER that he didn't even realize flames were licking the back of his steam roller until he heard screams and saw people telling him to steer the heavy vehicle away from the items.

This was the first time such a thing happened to him in his 10 years working at the Miaa, he said.

Anito said jumping off the vehicle didn't cross his mind.

"*Kung tumalon ako baka mas malaking disgrasya dahil may matatamaan na mga kotse at tao ang pison* (If I had jumped from the steam roller, it could have crushed cars and even people)," he said.

115 boxes

The items to be disposed of ranged from ordinary toothpastes, mouthwash, contact lens solutions, lotions, hair spray and mousse to expensive perfumes like Bulgari, Escada, Kenneth Cole and Calvin Klein.

Confiscated from passengers on domestic and international flights, they filled up 115 balikbayan boxes since the liquid ban was imposed by the Miaa last Aug. 11, following a foiled terrorist attack in London's Heathrow Airport.

US poll computers ...

From page A1

"America has seen more election reform in the past six years than in the previous 200," Paul DeGregorio, chairman of the US Election Assistance Commission, told AFP.

He said one of the states lagging behind as far as the technology is concerned is New York, which is still using equipment from the 1930s.

The majority of machines to be used in the upcoming congressional elections will involve optical scan technology, which electronically tallies results while allowing for a paper trail.

In all, 27 states require a verified paper record to ensure a way to double-check votes in the event of fraud or computer failure.

Need for poll workers

A computer science professor at John Hopkins University in Maryland, Avi Rubin, is pushing for paper receipts to allow for a manual count in the event some elections are contested.

DeGregorio, however, underplayed concerns about the new technology and said the main concern as the elections approach was the training and availability of workers at polling stations.

"We certainly appreciate the work that is done by academics and scientists but they do it in laboratories and in schools but not in an election environment," he said. "It's very easy to open up a device in a non-election environment and it's also very easy to rob a bank if you turn off the security devices." He said the main difficulty come election day may prove to be election workers at polling stations.

Complex technology

"We still have a shortage of poll workers throughout the country," DeGregorio said.

He said many older poll workers who for years have volunteered their services on election day have thrown in the towel in recent years because of the complexity of the new technology.

In a bid to make up for the shortage, the Election Assistance Commission has allocated a million dollars to universities nationwide to recruit a new generation of poll workers.

DeGregorio doubts the same scenario as 2000 could be repeated but said some delays may arise in areas where the vote is too close to call outright and where it could take weeks to count late absentee ballots. *AFP*

GMA to China: Make RP investment site

From page A1

In her keynote speech before Chinese businessmen, the President said the Philippines considered China among its most important allies.

No. 3 trading partner

She said the two countries' relations were "now more confident, mature and comprehensive."

She said Philippine trade with China grew at an annual rate of 41.9 percent from 2001 to 2005 and that China was now the country's No. 3 trade partner.

"Last year, trade between the two countries amounted to almost $17 billion. China is a huge customer of semiconductor devices, electronic machinery, and electronic micro-assemblies.

"Approximately one-third of total electronics exports are ... toward the Chinese market," Ms Arroyo said.

NorthRail project

The President took the occasion to thank China for financing the $900-million NorthRail project and noted this was crucial for the economic development plan of the country.

NorthRail will connect Manila to Clark.

She also expressed hope agricultural trade between the two countries would be enhanced with the conclusion of the RP-China memorandum of understanding on the Early Harvest Program.

"I encourage Chinese firms to plan relocation of the assembly of agricultural machinery to the Philippines," she said.

She also invited Chinese fishing firms to participate in the Philippine-China fisheries cooperation activities under their bilateral agreement on fisheries cooperation.

Agreements signed

During the luncheon meeting at the Xianglu Hotel, Ms Arroyo witnessed the signing of two agreements between the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI) and the All China Federation of Industry to improve bilateral trade exchanges between the two countries and foster closer interaction between the FFCCCI and the Fujian Normal University.

Three other agreements were signed in the presence of Ms Arroyo, including one on the development of the Nonoc nickel project in Surigao City which she called one of the "priority large scale mining projects of the country."

The two agreements involved a partnership between the Philippine-China Business Council and the PCBC Beijing Chapter to promote trade and investment as well as joint projects between First Metro Investment Corp. and Donghai Securities on real estate development.

Her current visit is expected to focus on forging more business with the region's largest and fastest growing economy.

All in all, Ms Arroyo will witness the signing of 10 agreements during her visit in Xiamen, according to FFCCCI president Francis Chua.

"We will enter a joint cooperation with (All China Federation of Industry) for them to help us to look for possible groups to invest in the Philippines not only in agricultural, industrial, mining but also in tourism," Chua told reporters.

Ms Arroyo traveled to China with her husband, two sons, a daughter-in-law, two granddaughters, and brother-in-law in tow.

PAL plane filled

Ms Arroyo and 188-man delegation flew on a Philippine Airlines' Airbus 330.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that family members in the trip included First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, their sons, Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo and Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, Mikey's wife, Angela, and their daughters Mikaela Gloria and Marie Angeli.

Congressmen, too

Presidential brother-in-law, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, was also part of the entourage.

Also in the party were Cha-cha proponents Representatives Benasing Macarambon, Monico Puentevella and Anthony Miranda, as well as Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone and Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, among others.

Ms Arroyo was heavily criticized for turning her trip to China in 2004 into a virtual family vacation because she had brought her whole family along, including her grandchildren's nannies.

Other dignitaries in her entourage were businessman William Gatchalian, who was accompanied by his son, Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and a number of congressmen.

Prior to her trip, Ms Arroyo said the China trip would hopefully further a "golden age" in relations between the two countries. *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

BIR widens TIN probe to all LGUs

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE HAS widened its probe into the reported hiring by local government units of employees without taxpayer identification numbers (TIN) to cover all regions of the country.

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag yesterday ordered BIR regional directors to check the TIN of provincial, city and municipal employees after some employees of the Makati City government were allegedly found to have no TINs.

Initially, Buñag directed Makati BIR regional director Nestor Aspe to check the veracity of the report on the Makati City government. But the BIR chief later extended the order to cover 12 other regions in the hope of finding other local government employees with no TIN.

The National Internal Revenue Code requires all persons employed, or seeking employment to secure TINs, which would register them as potential taxpayers. Employers of individuals have the duty to secure the TIN of their employees.

Buñag issued the order after Oscar Ibay, a former Makati City councilor, accused Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay of harboring some 8,000 employees who have not secured a TIN from the BIR.

Ibay said the fact that 8,000 employees in the Makati City payroll have not secured TIN indicated they were "ghost employees" as claimed by former Makati Vice Mayor Roberto Brillante.

While the issuance of TIN by the BIR is free, it is required for employment to ensure that the employee is made to pay his internal revenue taxes, especially income tax.

"The TIN is an important requirement that enables the BIR to track down potential taxpayers in order to build up its revenue base," Buñag said.

He said that a city or municipal government that had not secured TINs for its employees would be liable under the law.

According to Ibay, the Makati city government had lost some P960 million a year or about P9 billion over the last eight years for paying some 8,000 fictitious employees who have an average salary of P10,000 a month.

But Binay said the issuance of TIN to municipal employees was the lookout of the BIR, not the municipal government, since revenues due to the national government were the concern of the BIR.

He stressed that the municipal government's concern was only to ensure that city hall employees pay local taxes.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 28, 2006
Simon and Jude, Apostles

1st Reading: Eph 2:19-22
Gospel: Luke 6:12-16

Jesus went out into the hills to pray, spending the whole night in prayer with God. When day came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them whom he called apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James son of Alpheus and Simon called the Zealot; Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who would be the traitor.

Commentary

In Jesus we are no longer aliens; we are saints and citizens of the kingdom of God's peace and justice which knows no borders. We are a refuge and building that is secure on its foundations from the beginning, with Christ as the cornerstone. We grow together in God and God dwells in us in the Spirit. Jesus chose 12 from among his companions to lay the foundation in the Spirit and most of them cemented the stones with their blood as witness to Jesus' Word. But their work, and ours now, is to work to make the foundation sure: With hope preached, and the weak and the sick tended and cared for, and to make sure the whole world knows of the sanctuary in God here upon the earth, now.

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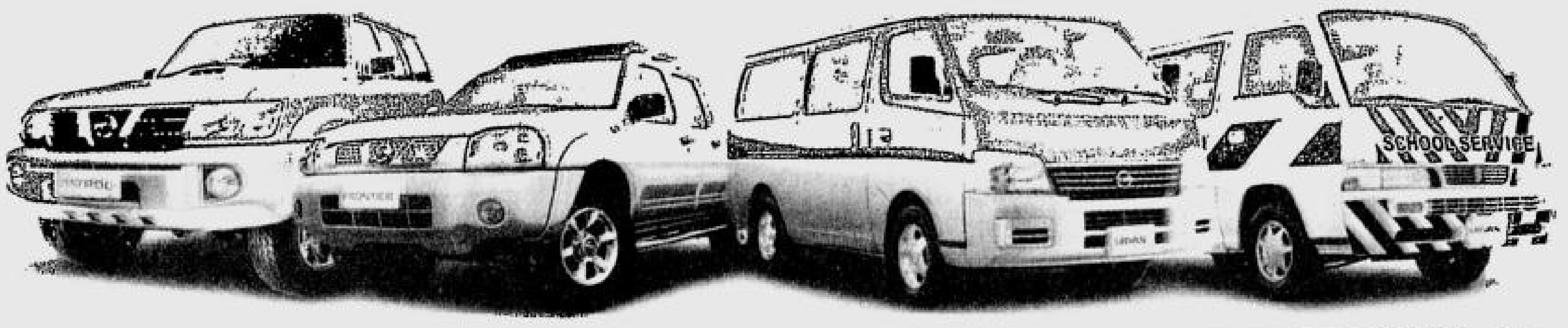

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Jollibee COO is Asia's top corporate citizen

From page A1

Business Leaders that included Masanari Iketani of Tokyo Steel Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (Asia Innovator of the Year); Ruey Bin Kao of Motorola (China) Electronics (Asia Talent Management); Fredy Bush of Xinhua Finance Ltd. (Asia Entrepreneur of the Year); Tony Fok Tung Ling of Comba Telecom System Holdings (Hong Kong CEO of the Year) and Anand G. Mahindra of Mahindra & Mahindra, who got the top award of Asia Business Leader of the Year.

Jollibee's corporate social responsibility projects center on strengthening the positive values of children, who comprise the bulk of its customers. It has produced a series of animated commercials encouraging Filipino children to obey their parents, respect the Philippine flag, among others.

The company also financed the production of illustrated books for Grade 1—featuring its mascots—and developed in coordination with the Department of Education and distributed for free.

Early Christmas

The 10-year-old fast-food chain made famous by its fried chicken, Filipino-style spaghetti, hamburgers with French fries, Palabok fiesta and peach-mango pie, also helps underprivileged children through its *Maaga Ang Pasko* program with top endorser Aga Muhlach.

Last year, it collected over one million toys from its 560 branches all over the Philippines which were, in turn, distributed to less fortunate children.

Jollibee is also involved in the shelter program through its tie-up with Gawad Kalinga, which puts up houses for the poor. It has helped put up 50 houses in Parañaque, Las Piñas and is now building 100 houses in Southern Leyte, where residents lost their homes to landslides early this year.

Stringent screening

CNBC Asia Pacific managing director Jeremy Pink said CNBC hosted the awards to provide "a platform where top Asian business leaders can meet, network and share valuable insights, to enhance their respective companies, and have a direct impact on enhancing the corporate economy."

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CNBC officials honor Ernesto Tanmantiong (second from right) during the 5th CNBC Business Leader Awards in Hong Kong.

Pink said the awardees were named after a long, stringent elimination process that started from over 13,000 companies across the region and then trimmed to the final six.

"I share this award with my team, the customers and business partners," Tanmantiong said as he accepted the award during the formal awards ceremony at the Conrad Hotel here. "May this inspire us to do even more."

Work with gov't

After the awards ceremony, Tanmantiong told the INQUIRER that he would expand Jollibee's social involvement by encouraging local government leaders to undergo training and seminars so they could better serve the people.

"We continue to look at how we can encourage our leaders to be more responsive to their constituents," Tanmantiong said. "It is a tall order but we see that if we promote this, we can help our country."

He said that Jollibee's corporate social responsibility projects had no direct impact on its bottom line, but it perseveres because it was simply the right thing to do.

Most admired

"We have been blessed with the support of the Filipinos," Tanmantiong said. "It is just right for us to try and give back."

Jollibee also took the top spot in overall ranking in the latest Philippine survey of "Asia's 200 Most Admired Companies" conducted by the Wall Street Journal Asia.

This is the 8th consecutive time that the fast-food giant placed first in this annual survey of top companies in Asia.

Jollibee was also the top choice in "Innovative in Responding to Customer Needs." It bested top Philippine companies in the banking, telecommunications, food and beverage, broadcast and real estate development industries.

Tessie Sy still on 'most powerful women' list

From page A1

country's third largest bank; the president of SM Inc., which handles SM's retail businesses; and director of SM Prime Holdings, which owns and operates SM's supermalls.

Sy-Coson, a widow, is personally involved in selecting the items which land in SM department stores and takes a direct hand in the group's marketing campaigns.

Mero noted that "with seven new entrants and strong contingents from France and China, our international list shows that business is opening up to women—fast."

Top 3 women

The top three women on this year's Most Powerful Women list are running French companies—all of them Fortune Global 500 corporations.

Topping the list is Pat Russo for France, who is taking over the soon to be merged Alcatel Lucent, which will be based in Paris and will become one of the largest telecom companies in the world.

Anne Lauvergeon, who heads nuclear giant Areva, is ranked No. 2, while Anne Marie Idrac, recently appointed president of the French railway system SNCF, is No. 3.

TESSIE SY-COSON: Sixth year on the Forbes list of most powerful women in business

Others in the Fortune's top 10 list include the Netherlands' Linda Cook, executive director of Gas and Power of Royal Dutch Shell; Britain's Marjorie Scardino, CEO of Pearson, which owns the Financial Times; China's Xie Qihua, chair of the Baosteel Group; Italy's Marina Berlusconi, chair of Finivest, the media conglomerate founded by her father, the former Prime Minister; the Netherlands' Nancy McKinstry, chair and CEO of publishing and online company Wolters Kluer; Spain's Ana Patricia Botin, executive chair of Banesto, and China's Mary Ma, CFO of Lenovo, the world's third largest computer company.

Year of woman CEO

Indira Nooyi, the Indian-born newly appointed CEO of Pepsi, on the other hand, topped the US List of Most Powerful Women, leading the way in what editors call "the year of the woman CEO.

Others in the US list's top 10 include Anne Mulcahy, chair and CEO of Xerox; Meg Whitman, president and CEO of eBay; Pat Woertz, CEO and president of Archer Daniels Midland; Irene Rosenfield, CEO of Kraft Foods; Brenda Barnes, chair and CEO of Sara Lee; Oprah Winfrey, chair of Harpo Inc.; Sally Krawcheck, CFO and head of Strategy of Citigroup and Susan Arnold, vice chair, Beauty and Health of Procter and Gamble.

If he asks for money for a prayer, he's fake

From page A1

comfort, recites a psalm or two and looks every inch a Roman Catholic priest—but is he really?

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has warned the public against enterprising individuals posing as priests to extract money from unwitting visitors in cemeteries on All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and All Souls' Day (Nov. 2).

Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, CBCP spokesperson, said yesterday that the modus operandi was common at this time of year when Filipinos naturally seek blessings for their dearly departed.

How can the public tell if a man sporting a Roman collar and toting a Bible is a fraud?

"It's really hard to tell by appearance alone," Quitorio told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "You have to engage him in a conversation and analyze his attitude. If there's a predisposition for money, most likely, he's fake."

He said legitimate priests, even those from other Christian denominations, would never demand money after giving a blessing. At the very least, they would accept donations freely given by a person who had asked for prayers.

In the case of Catholic priests, he said they were often requested to recite the "responso," which is the blessing of the tomb and prayer for the eternal repose of the soul.

If he stammers ...

"But it's better if people offer Holy Mass for their departed loved ones," Quitorio said.

Another way to spot a poseur was to ask for the name of his diocese and the bishop in charge of it.

Quitorio said a real priest would know this information by heart. "If he stammers or if there's some hesitation before he responds, chances are, he's fake."

He said an unsuspecting individual should not just rely on a priest's identification card called "celebret" because it could also be counterfeited. Also, people did not usually ask to see it out of respect for the priest, he said.

The public can also check with the CBCP by calling its hotline at 404-2182, according to the monsignor.

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ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon aims his pistol during a competition among the military top brass Friday to ensure their marksmanship skills remain sharp. AFP

Esperon: 2 officers may be spared from court-martial

By Dona Pazzibugan

ABOUT ONE OR TWO OF THE 38 Army and Marine officers linked to the February coup plot could be spared from court-martial, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. hinted yesterday.

Esperon said he would decide next month whether to convene a general court-martial, even as his Staff Judge Advocate is completing a review of the recommendations of a pre-trial investigative team.

"Within November we should be seeing a court-martial, if there will be a court-martial," he said, adding that he would not sacrifice "fairness and thoroughness" in his decision.

"I want to get the Staff Judge Advocate's report immediately and I'll see to it that I will read it as fast as I can so that I can decide as soon as possible," he said.

But even before the results of the review are in, the AFP chief declared that there may be some officers who might be cleared.

"Of the 38, there could be one or two or more who might not be included," Esperon told reporters on the sidelines of an Army-sponsored shoot-fest among generals at Fort Bonifacio yesterday.

A three-man panel from the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) led by its deputy chief Col. Al Perreras has found probable cause to try the accused officers before a general court-martial.

Esperon received the 200-page pre-trial investigation report on Wednesday and promptly turned it over to his legal advisers.

He admitted he has just read the first three and the last three pages of the report, which included 1,000 pages of attachments.

The 38 officers whom the Jago investigated for "attempting to start or create a mutiny" last February include former Army Scout Rangers commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and 24 other officers from the unit, and former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, Col. Ariel Querubin and 11 other Marine officers.

They also face charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (Article of War 96) and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (AW 97).

"I must admit it's very difficult. You know, Gen. Miranda was my roommate for one year in the [Philippine Military] Academy. But that should be no reason at all why I cannot objectively decide on the matter," Esperon said.

The two generals belong to the PMA Class of 1973.

Last Wednesday, Esperon ordered the transfer of Querubin and five other accused Marine colonels to the Sangley Point naval base in Cavite City, saying there were reports that "some elements" planned to spring them from the naval staff house in Fort Bonifacio where they were being held.

But the Navy Flag Officer in Command, Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, decided instead to transfer Querubin, Col. Orlando de Leon and Januario Caringal, and Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon, Armando Banez and Achilles Segumalian to the Marine detention center, also located in Fort Bonifacio.

Police go on full alert nationwide

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE WENT ON FULL ALERT NATIONwide yesterday for the traditional All Saints' Day celebration and President Macapagal-Arroyo's trip to China.

The full alert status took effect at 12 noon yesterday, after the President left for Beijing.

"We are on full alert first because it is standard operating procedure that we do so when the President is out of the country. Secondly, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are coming and people are going to the provinces," said Philippine National Police Chief Director General Oscar Calderon.

The police has been on heightened alert since Oct. 9 following a series of bomb attacks in Mindanao a few weeks ago.

Calderon said a special police team would be sent to patrol and guard shopping malls and vital installations to thwart possible terrorist attacks.

The patrols are also for the purpose of preventing petty crimes as December is nearing, he said. The number of holdups and robberies typically increases in the run-up to the Christmas season.

"As we know, crime rises when Christmas is just around the corner. A lot of criminals will be trying to raise funds and they want to get easy money," Calderon said.

The PNP chief said intelligence agencies will continue to "process" reports of possible terrorist attacks.

The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said that starting on Saturday, 3,000 policemen would be deployed to watch Metro Manila's cemeteries.

Another 3,000 civilian volunteers will augment the police force in the cemeteries, according to NCRPO chief Director Reynaldo Varilla.

In addition, some 500 Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) traffic aides will help to keep the smooth flow of traffic on streets leading to the cemeteries from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.

The car number-coding scheme will be lifted on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

PNP spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao noted that Metro Manila police have been on full alert since last week because of the stand-off in the Makati City Hall, when Mayor Jejomar Binay defied an interior department order suspending him for 60 days. The alert status was lowered last Tuesday after the Court of Appeals issued an injunction against the suspension.

Rizal, Cory and FG share same lineage

By Christine O. Avendaño

XIAMEN (via PLDT)—WHAT DO JOSE Rizal, Emilio Aguinaldo, former President Corazon Aquino and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo have in common?

They all have Chinese lineage.

Francis Chua, head of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, pointed out the Chinese descendancy of these people during a luncheon yesterday for President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is here on a five-day visit to China.

Indeed, the President told Chinese businessmen at the luncheon that Filipinos shared a special relationship with the people of Fujian province dating back to the first generation of Fujianites who emigrated to the Philippines "in search of green pastures, open and hospitable land."

She said her husband was a descendant of a Chinese from Xiamen—the Sontua.

"Later and after several generations, the Sontua became Tuason, the family name of my mother in law and I am happy to be a great granddaughter of Fujian and Xiamen," Ms Arroyo said.

She also pointed out that several Philippine taipans came from Fujian province, especially in Xiamen.

"Several of (them) have returned and invested in prominent businesses and facilities here," Ms Arroyo said.

She named business tycoon Lucio Tan, whom she said had a bank here in Xiamen.

The President also said that there was a Shoemart or SM mall in Xiamen. SM is owned by the Sys.

Ms Arroyo was supposed to visit SM Xiamen last night but the plan was cancelled.

High court ruling consistent with SWS poll results

THE SOCIAL WEATHER Stations said the Supreme Court's main argument for rejecting the petition for a people's initiative was consistent with the results of a survey it conducted last June.

In rejecting the petition, the SC ruled that majority of the 6.3 million people who signed the signature sheets did not see the full text of the proposed changes before signing, and could not have known the effects of the proposed changes.

The high court said this omission was "fatal" to the petition.

SWS president Mahar Mangahas said this dovetailed with the findings of a survey that the polling organization conducted last June in which "six out of 10 approached on a petition said they were not shown the amendments which they were asked to sign."

The survey, conducted from June 22 to 28, asked respondents if they had been approached by any group "to sign a petition favoring some amendments to the Constitution," and that if they had been approached, if they were shown and allowed to read "the exact amendments they favor."

Kate Pedroso

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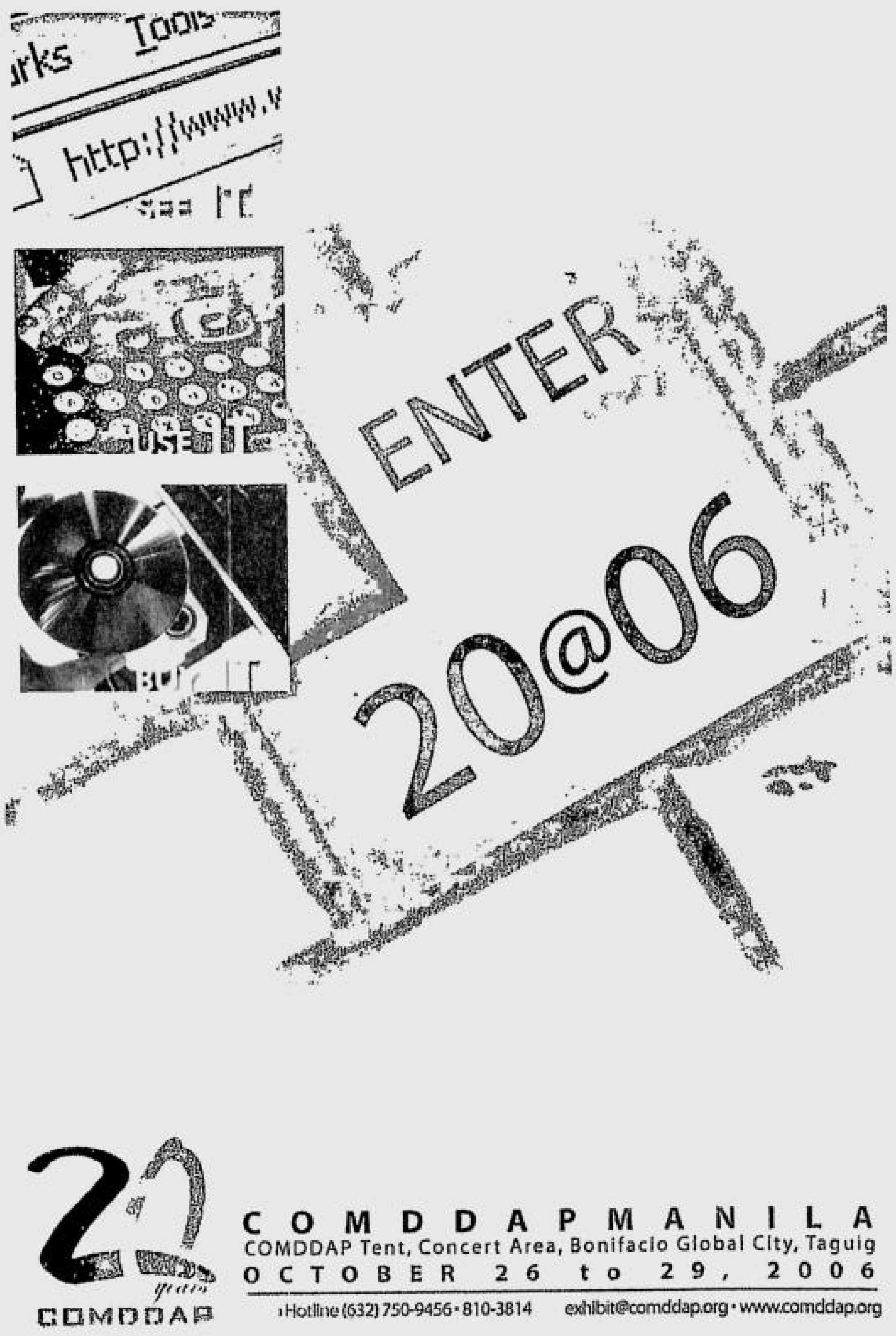
DATE	TOPIC	SUBJECT	TIME	C.U.	LECTURER
10 Nov	Alternative Dispute Resolutions in Family Law Cases	ADR	9:00-12:15	3	Professor Rowena E.V. Daroy Morales
	The Art of Direct and Cross-Examination	Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy	1:00-5:15	4	Professor Theodore O. Te
17 Nov	Updates in Legal Ethics Jurisprudence	Legal Ethics	9:00-12:15	3	Justice Hector L. Hofilena
	Court-Referred and Court-Annexed Mediation	ADR	1:00-3:00	2	Professor Alfredo F. Tadiar (ret.)
	Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 and its IRR	Substantive/ Procedural aw	3:15-6:15	3	ACA Nimfa-Cuesta Vilches
01 Dec	International Conventions Involving Migrant Workers	International Law	9:00-11:15	2	Dean Merlin M. Magallona
	Trial Techniques	Pretrial & Trial Skills	1:00-5:15	4	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
08 Dec	Amendment and Revision of the Constitution	MCLE Prescribed Subject	9:00-12:15	3	Justice Vicente V. Mendoza (ret.)
	Impact of Digital Technology on Copyright in the Philippines	MCLE Prescribed Subject	1:00-4:15	3	Professor Vicente B. Amador
15 Dec	Problem Areas in Legal Ethics	Legal Ethics	9:00-12:15	3	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino (ret.)
	The Law on Successional Rights of Children	Substantive/ Procedural aw	1:00-4:00	3	Justice Ricardo Puno, Sr. (ret.)
	Developments in Tax Law	Substantive/ Procedural aw	4:15-7:15	3	Prof. Serafin U. Salvador

REGISTRATION FEE: P7,000.00/package or P750.00/session (inclusive of snacks, lunch, MCLE Accredited Certificates of Attendance and lecture materials). Schedules/lecturers are subject to change without prior notice.



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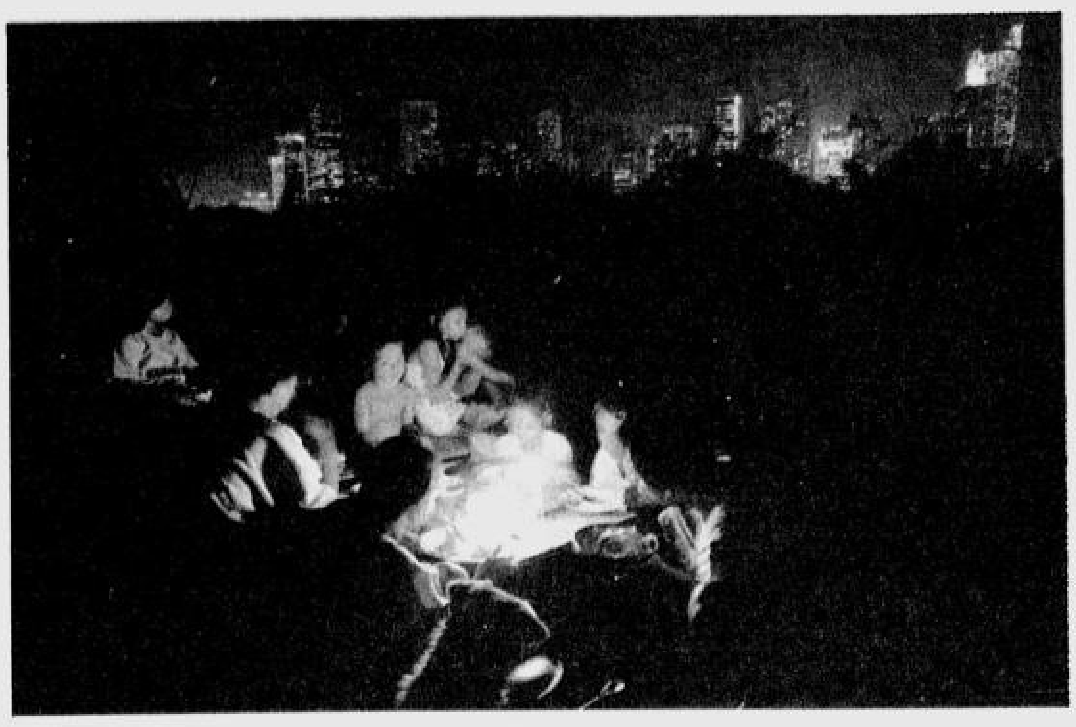

A FAMILY eats dinner by candle light in the South Cemetery in Makati City. The local governments plan to move out the hundreds of people who live in the cemeteries in Metro Manila before All Souls day, a day of remembrance for the dead when Catholics visit the graves of their relatives.

REUTERS

Get ready for security che

By Riza T. Olchondra

PASSENGER VOLUMES WILL BE HIGH AND SECURITY tight for the "undas" or the observation of All Saints' Day on Nov. 1. An added security measure this year is the restriction on liquid and gel substances, Office of Transport Security (OTS) director Cecillo Penilla said.

The ban on liquids and gels, imposed in response to terrorist threats, is already being enforced in land, sea and air transportation lines, on top of other routine security procedures, such as the removal and screening of footwear, and the ban on pointed, bladed and flammable items.

For those staying in Metro Manila, expect to see police and other uniformed units deployed at bus terminals and metro railway stations to help maintain order and check baggage. This week, they will also be assisting security details in shopping malls.

Coast Guard spokesperson Lt. Cdr. Joseph Coyme said sea marshalls will be deployed onboard vessels to help the shipping lines' own security personnel.

Transport and radio communication groups, barangay officials and their respective security teams will also be fielded at cemeteries, where all cars except security and recognized emergency and medical vehicles will not be allowed entry.

The INQUIRER has gathered travel tips from transportation and security experts to minimize the hassles of travelling through busy ports and terminals during "undas."

A MAN cuts the grass covering the tomb of a relative for All Saints Day.

At Manila North Cemetery, the living and dead share sp

IN THE CROWDED SPRAWL OF METRO Manila, the living must compete for space with the dead.

Fortunately for Virginia Bernardino and hundreds of other slum dwellers who have moved into the largest cemetery in the country, the deceased don't seem to mind.

"So far we have not seen any ghosts here," the soft-spoken Bernardino, 59, said with a chuckle. "I think that only happens in the movies. As the saying goes, we should fear not the dead but the living."

For years, Manila North Cemetery, a public graveyard in the center of the capital of 12 million people, has been a thriving community for those evicted from their homes or flocking from the provinces for better opportunities in the big city.

After being forced from their state lot beside the cemetery to make way for a new graveyard, Bernardino and her husband have converted her mother-in-law's mausoleum into a home for their two sons, their wives and children.

Living conditions are basic but the residents manage some creature comforts. Clothes hang from lines strung among the makeshift shacks and television sets flicker in a few homes with electricity stolen from nearby power lines.

The mainly Roman Catholic country, now home to more than 86 million people, has the fastest population growth rate in Asia at 2.36 percent, or 5,400 babies born each day.

The incessant search for jobs and accompanying migration to cities has worsened problems of poverty, poor sanitation and urban decay.

A visit to the North Cemetery raises serious questions about government boasts that the economy is ready for take-off.

The squatters try to make a living by painting and cleaning gravestones and tombs. Others, like Bernardino's husband and children, have found work outside the cemetery in casual labor.

Small children run through the rock-filled lanes in bare feet, their faces and thin bodies covered with dirt.

"They already know that they should not make homes out of cemeteries," said Dr. Eduardo Serrano, head of the Manila Health Department's preventable diseases division.

"It's dangerous to their health. The problem is they are being asked to leave but they keep on coming back," he said.

The country's housing shortage is expected to worsen as the population continues to grow to a projected 142 million by 2040.

The high birth rate is tied to the strong influence of the Catholic Church, which frowns on the use of contraceptives such as condoms and birth-control pills.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who survived an impeachment attempt last year and an alleged coup plot in February, relies on the support of the Church and shows no signs of reversing her emphasis on natural family planning over artificial methods.

On All Saints
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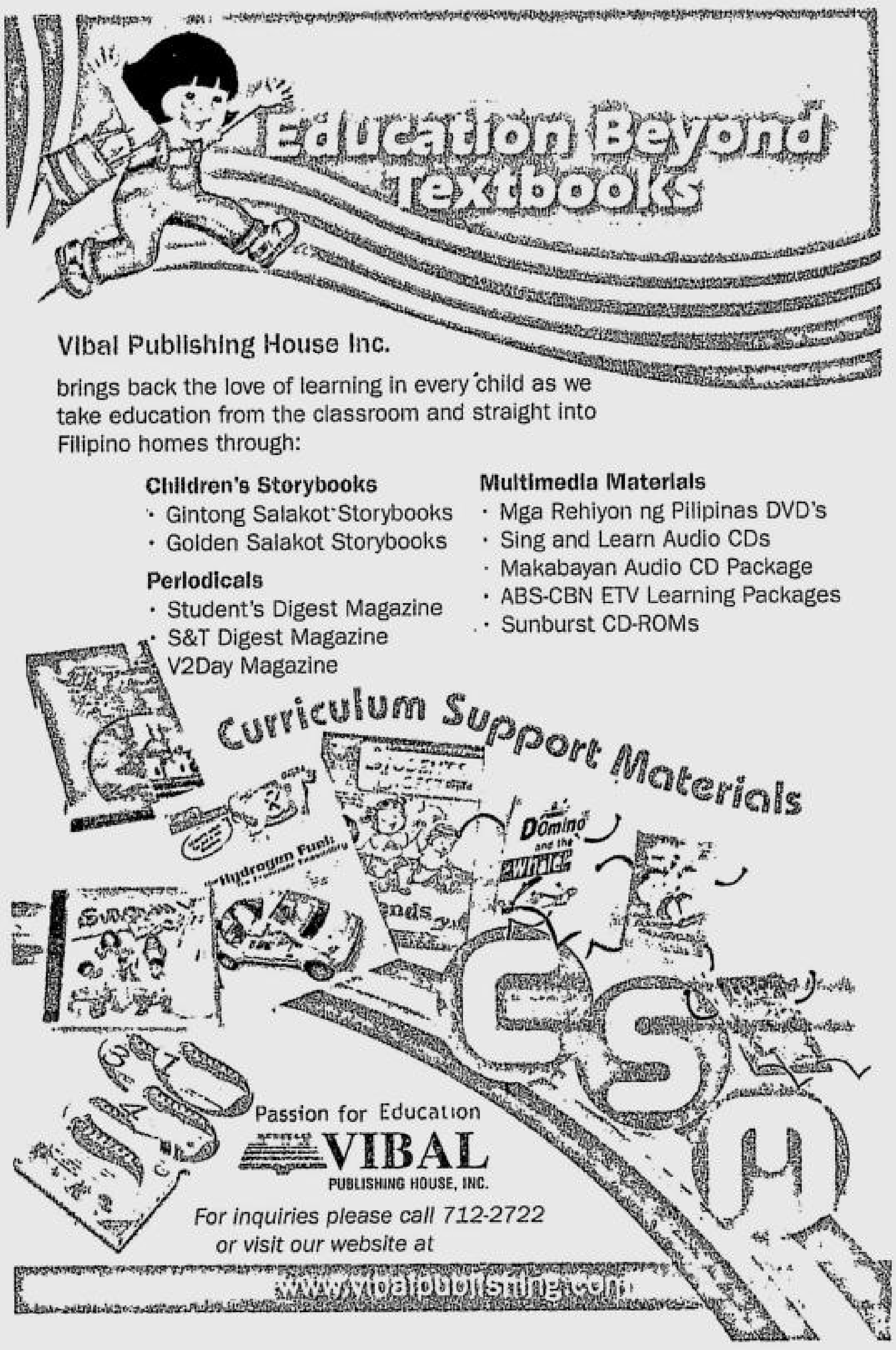

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- Do not try to bring flammable or pointed materials into the airplanes.
- Do not bring plants and pets whenever possible. If you must, check the rules in advance with your airline

ace

Day and All Souls' Day, Nov. 1 and 2, cemeteries come alive as people pay parted loved ones.

s also become a reunion graveyards transformed ds for the two days.

dino and her neighbors, it could spell trouble. . one of the cemetery's the squatters would be to make way for the

Cemetery, laid out in resting place for a numigures, from presidents opular actors.

inence in life, their tombs ssing with lavish splenast to the lives of the poor ng the graves.

of those buried in public does not always mean

n relatives of Herminia Lued as they wait anxiously o remove a coffin from the ill bury her.

emeteries allow the use tes for only five years.

do?" Luminda's nephew e lit a candle. "We don't cause we do not have own lot." *Reuters*

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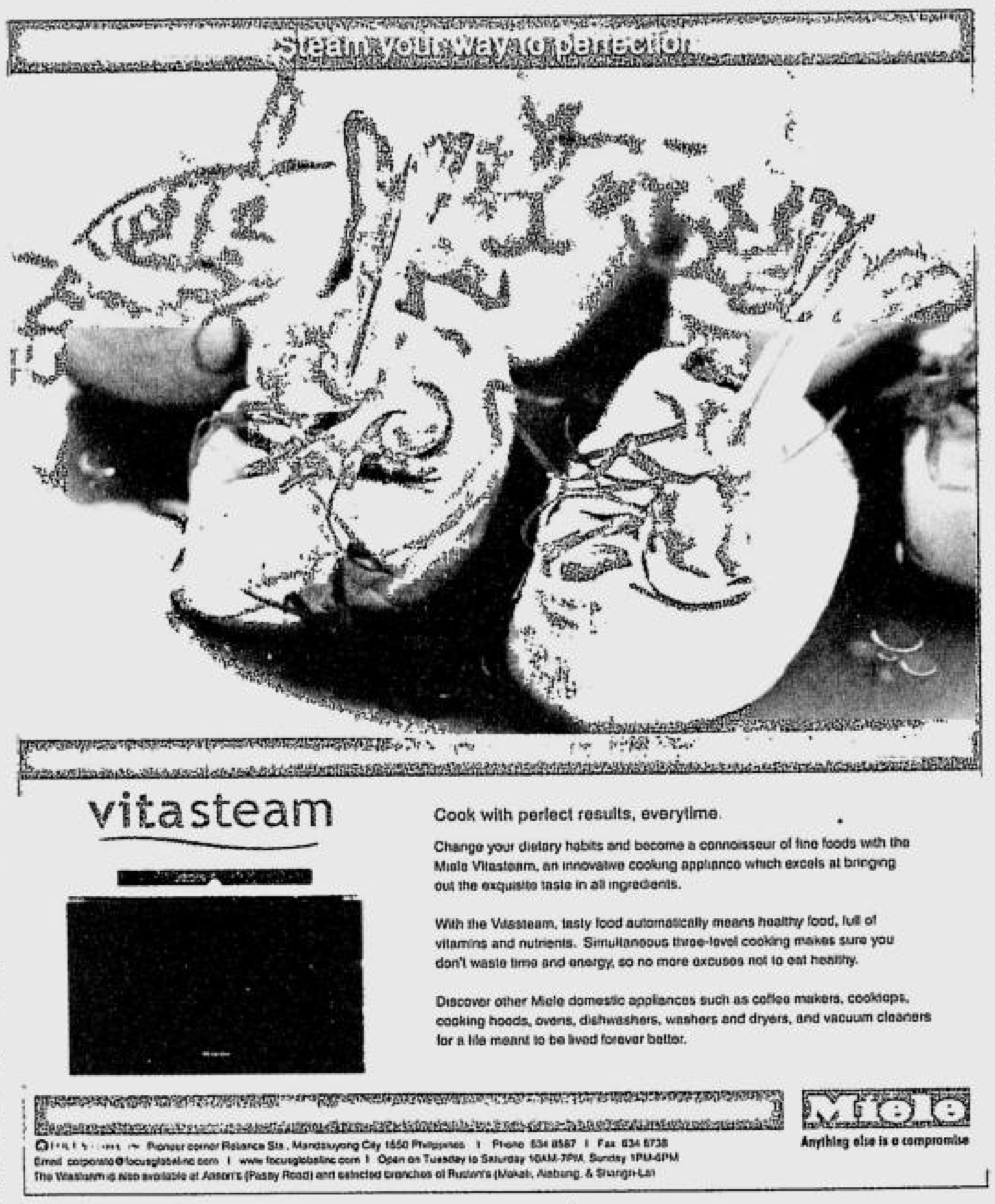

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Enough

EDITORIAL

EX-SENATE PRESIDENT JOVITO SALONGA MAY have given the aptest characterization of the Supreme Court vote on the people's initiative petition. "It's a close but firm decision," he said on Thursday.

Yes it is, and the proponents of the failed bid would do well to keep that in mind and—to appropriate, semi-seriously, the Arroyo administration's own mantra—just "move on."

It certainly seems as though the Charter change campaign's supporter-in-chief is moving on. The day after the high court handed down its decision, President Macapagal-Arroyo all but conceded that the people's initiative mode of changing the Constitution—at least in this particular form, at this particular time—was dead. "We call upon the people, especially the strong and committed supporters of the people's initiative, to join hands in supporting the close decision of the high court. This is democracy in action and we must uphold it," she said.

Game over? Not exactly. The administration has proven, since the President's crisis of legitimacy erupted last year, that it squarely belongs to the "watch-not-what-we-say-but-what-we-do" school of politics. So the prudent thing for the public to do is to wait—vigilantly—and see—critically.

Indeed, the President has not said goodbye to the effort to change the Constitution. "The great idea of Charter reform lives on, and we must keep the fire burning," she also said the other day.

That combustible assertion forces us to look closely at the words she used in conceding defeat. Sure enough, we find that all the President said was that the close vote must be supported. Does support necessarily mean that the parties behind the people's initiative bid—Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, which are both closely identified with the administration—should drop the idea of filing a motion for reconsideration? Wait and see. Once we hear a political personality argue that it is **precisely** because the parties respect the high court and the rule of law that they are seeking a reconsideration, we can be certain that the answer is no.

Already, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has waxed optimistic about a plan to appeal the decision. He also raised the possibility that administration forces would push through with the plan to effect constitutional change either through a constituent assembly or a constitutional convention.

"The President supports any mode that would lead to Charter change. The important thing is the objective. We have to see the timetable involved and study how these moves would be in relation to the constitutionally scheduled elections."

In other words, it is all a question of timing.

Thus, the possibility of filing a motion for reconsideration depends in large part on Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's retirement schedule. The foolhardy plan to ram through a proposal to convene Congress as a constituent assembly also depends in large part on next year's election calendar.

To all this, we say: Enough already. We share the view of many legal observers, including former judge and current administration stalwart Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, that any motion for reconsideration will not prosper. We also share the belief of many that the attempt to convene Congress as a constituent assembly, through a vote only of the House of Representatives, is not only constitutionally infirm but also logistically untenable.

The most that administration supporters of Charter change can reasonably hope for is the chance to turn the May elections into a referendum—to determine whether the public, in fact, wants the Constitution changed in the first place.

Feeble response

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE UNITED STATES AND FOUR OTHER NATIONS—JAPAN, China, Russia and South Korea—have failed to announce specific measures to carry out economic sanctions unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council. This could spark concerns about whether the five nations will be able to take coordinated actions against the reclusive state.

The five countries have been unanimously adamant in protesting North Korea's nuclear test and its possession of nuclear weapons. However, their inability to implement forceful and specific actions against Pyongyang means they have failed to send a strong message to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.

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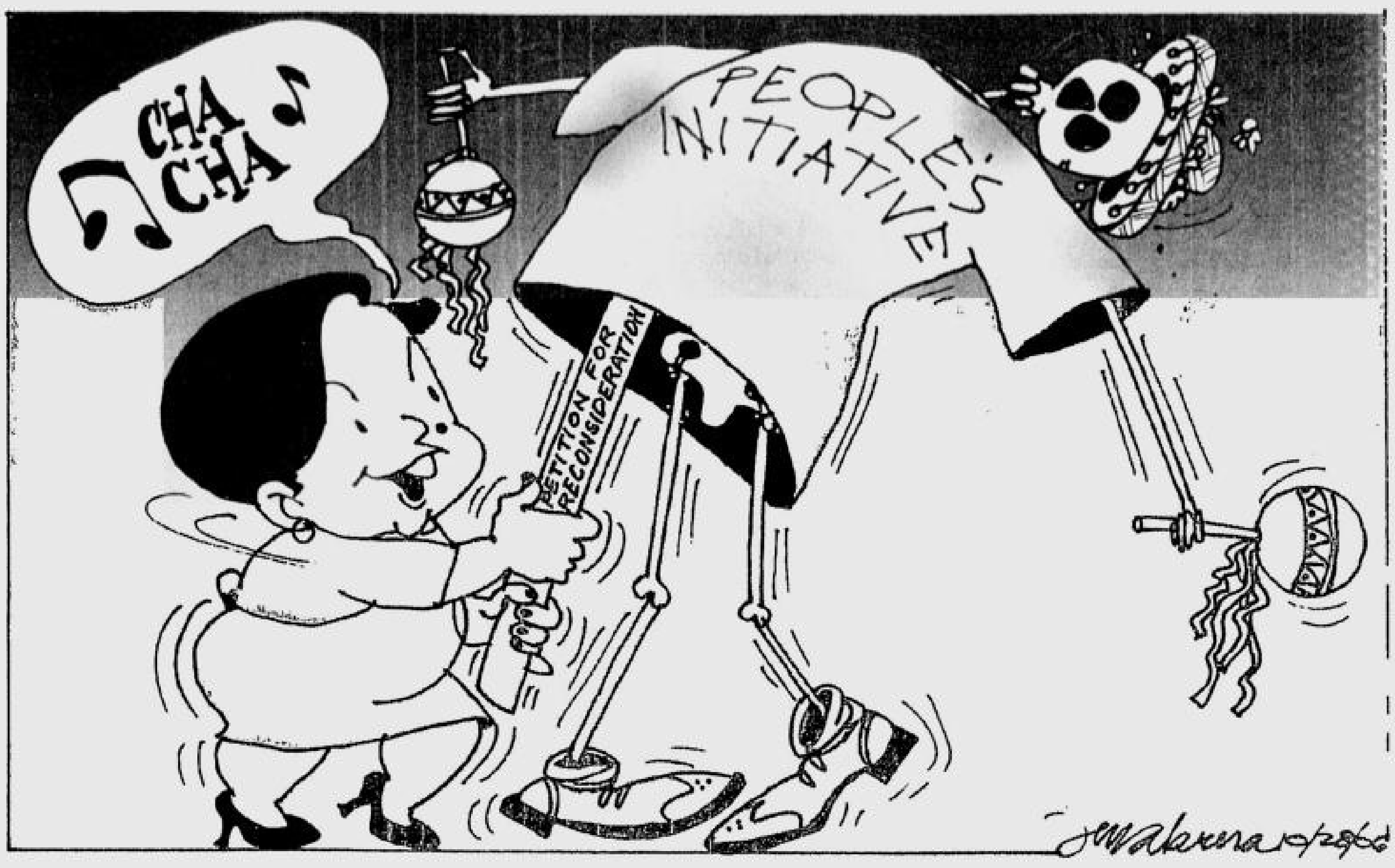

The absent leader

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN 2004, he was everywhere—on television, over the radio, in the print media, political caucuses, school programs, and of course the public markets. He was as good as already elected then and was heavily expected to top the list of winning senatorial candidates. There was none among his rivals to challenge him for the coveted prize, for which he had spent a not inconsiderable fortune and unsparing time and effort.

And he did win—over older and veteran national politicians, neophytes with little or no experience in government service, and even the presumptuous entertainers who wanted to cash in on their attractions in the box office as qualifications for public office. These glittering stars, for all their artificial incandescence, could not shine as brightly as he did in the eyes of the admiring voters. The results showed their confidence in their idol as the new leader who would lead them from the clutches of the *trapos* to an idealistic and honest future.

He was, after all, Mr. Palengke who deserved the accolade the electorate gave him. He was the darling of the housewives for whose benefit he kept track of current prices of prime commodities from rice to fish and nuts. The scion of a respected political family, he was also knowledgeable in public affairs and had previously served in the government like his forebears. With the added recommendation of being a bachelor, he was understandably the target of ambitious ladies pining to sit with him some day in Malacañang. He was also a personable young man who combed his hair and wore neat but not dandy or fancy clothes.

And so he assumed office for the first time in the Senate, where his grandfather had served as its president before becoming President of the Philippines. Many saw the grandson as the positive and promising bearer of their illustrious name. Even then, he was already known for his predecessor's oratorical gifts, which were already shared by his own father before him. His only disadvantage—and it was not so devastating at the time—was that he belonged to the party of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose own title was slowly becoming questionable. But he would redeem her and her cohorts from the growing disaffection of the people and offer them a new leadership under his stainless banner.

But that was then, and how is it now? Where is the promising Mar Roxas, the topnotcher in the 2004 senatorial elections, in whom the electorate all over the land had great expectations?

It is surprising and terribly disappointing that since his impressive election victory, Mar Roxas has hardly been heard from as a member of the Senate. Even with the threat of the abolition of the chamber he is supposed to grace, he has not spoken a word in its defense. Where he was most garrulous during the campaign and was intentionally and voluntarily willing to discuss public issues, particularly on economics and finance, he has now become unexplainably silent, not even to say "No comment." This is hardly understandable in a politician, particularly an elective politician, particularly if he has higher intentions for the future like no less than incumbency in the Palace of the People.

By contrast, his colleagues in the Upper House have projected themselves by their opinions on practically every issue, from Bolante to the Garci tapes, the increasing militarization of the government, the amendment or revision of the Constitution, the escalation of the murderous violence against journalists, and other serious problems facing the nation. Even Jinggoy Estrada has been conspicuously talkative and Lito Lapid is being groomed to challenge Jejomar Binay for the Makati mayorship. There is also the texted joke about Bong Revilla introducing a bill punishing suicide bombers with lethal injection. But there is hardly any news about or from the formerly high-profile Mar Roxas, who has become like Achilles sulking in his tent.

I may have myself not been paying attention to current events, but as far I know Mar Roxas has not involved himself in the discussion or solution of the various public issues requiring his attention as a member of the Senate, except for his "parallel importation" of cheaper medicines. His taciturnity reminds me of a similar attitude in Sen. Gringo Honasan when he was running for re-election in 2001.

I observed then that Honasan was not entitled to remain in the Senate because of his inutile performance during the term he wanted to renew. In answer to my charges, his staff and his wife sent me separate but similar letters saying that while their hero was not active in the debates in the Senate, he was nevertheless busy with committee work. They both listed six bills he had presented (at the rate of one for each year) that I can't remember now if he had formally sponsored them or if they ever passed at all.

I hope all my disappointments about Manuel A. Roxas II are not well-founded. But I am still curious about his reticence on the significant problems facing the country today that I feel he can help much in resolving as a responsible and perceptive member of the Senate.

The Carpio decision vs the Puno dissent

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

READING THE SUPREME COURT DECISION penned by Justice Antonio Carpio, as well as the separate opinions of 11 other justices (five concurring, six dissenting) is well worth the exercise. I must confess though that I spent most of that effort on the decision itself, the separate concurring opinion of Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban (which I hope to write about in another column), and the dissenting opinion of Justice Reynato Puno. Lawyer I may not be, but to paraphrase a popular quote, the issues involved are too important to be left solely to lawyers. And it is my contention that the ability to read and understand the English language is (or should be) a sufficient condition for appreciating what is going on. Besides, a non-lawyer's perspective can sometimes be very helpful—a case in point was a child who pointed out that the emperor had no clothes.

One of the things that this child (as far as legal matters is concerned, please do understand) found really puzzling, was this: While Justice Carpio took great pains—devoting 20 out of the 40-page "Ruling of the Court" portion of the decision—to discuss the majority ruling that the Lambino initiative does not comply with Sec. 2, Article XVII of the Constitution (this section is "the governing constitutional provision that allows a people's initiative to propose amendments to the Constitution," he said), Justice Puno's dissent did not touch on it at all. More importantly, at least to me, Justice Puno did not rebut the Carpio arguments.

Essentially, Carpio, quoting chapter and verse from the proceedings of the 1986 Constitutional Commission and from American jurisprudence (the concept of people's initiative was directly borrowed from the United States), made the point that "an amendment is 'directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition (the phraseology of the provision—scm)' only if the people sign on a petition that contains the full text of the proposed amendments." This full text may be written on the face of the petition or attached to it—and if so attached, the petition must state the fact of such attachment.

What is the rationale for this requirement? From various US decisions:

"A signature requirement would be meaningless if the person supplying the signature has not first seen what it is that he or she is signing";

"The purpose of the full text requirement is to provide sufficient information so that registered voters can intelligently evaluate whether to sign the initiative petition";

"An initiative signer must be informed at the time of signing of the nature and effect of that which is proposed," and failure to do so is "deceptive and misleading" which renders the initiative void.

Carpio then painstakingly went over the written and oral arguments of Raul Lambino himself, and came to "the inescapable conclusion that the Lambino Group failed to show to the 6.3 million signatories the full text of the proposed changes," which "omission is fatal." Carpio also listed some of the proposed changes—such as the lifting of term limits, and the fact that the members of the interim Parliament was to determine the expiration of their own term of office, as well as the fact that the interim Parliament was to convene within 45 days of the ratification of the proposed changes to propose further amendments or revision to the Constitution—whose nature and effect the signatories could not have known. The Carpio decision proceeded to show that "Atty. Lambino and his group deceived the 6.3 million signatories, and even the entire nation."

And that isn't all. Carpio pointed out that the Transitory Provision convening the interim Parliament within 45 days to propose further changes to the constitution was totally unrelated to the shift from a bicameral-presidential to a unicameral-parliamentary system. This he called "logrolling" (the deliberate intermingling of issues to increase the likelihood of an initiative's passage), the effect of which, in American jurisprudence, is to nullify the entire proposition, not only the unrelated subject matter. Carpio further pointed out that the section on Transitory Provisions discriminates against the senators, a fact that the 6.3 million voters could not have known.

Given all these sins of omission and commission, Carpio concluded that the Lambino group's initiative was void and unconstitutional.

Now back to the Puno dissent. I didn't see anything in the Puno opinion that took exception to or tore apart the Carpio ruling on the above issue. Which, to my unlettered legal mind, must mean that Puno did not disagree. But if he did not disagree, how could he then say that those 6 million signatures, solicited under false pretenses, reflected the sovereign will of the people? How could he consider those signatures the people's voice? A leap of logic?

To quote Puno: "Let them who will diminish or destroy the sovereign right of the people to decide be warned. Let not their sovereignty be diminished by those who belittle their brains to comprehend changes in the Constitution as if the people themselves are not the source and author of our Constitution. Let not their sovereignty be destroyed by the masters of manipulation who misrepresent themselves as the spokesmen of the people." I totally agree. Except that Puno's "them" seems to refer not to the Lambino group (that, according to the Carpio ruling, did the deception and manipulation), but to the other groups in opposition of the Lambino petition.

Go figure.

‘Extremely strong and condemnatory language’

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE VOTING IN THE RECENT SUPREME COURT ruling which struck down the people's initiative was extremely close. Even in the morning of Oct. 25, few people wanted to hazard a guess as to how it would go. It was the kind of decision that could have gone either way, and there were strong and persuasive arguments on both sides. According to news reports, it was Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban who cast the swing vote to break the 7-7 deadlock.

* * *

What surprised many people, including—again according to reports—former Marcos' solicitor general Estelito Mendoza, was the extremely harsh tenor of the majority decision penned by Justice Antonio Carpio. So harsh indeed that even Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who is herself known for dishing out such verbal blows, noted the "extremely strong and condemnatory language." Maid Miriam, I think, made an understatement, for once.

I myself was appalled at the tone. After 20 continuous years of column writing, I can claim to have read assiduously a good number of court decisions. But I must confess that I wasn't prepared for the sweeping accusations the majority decision dished out against the initiative proponents. In a democracy, we all value the vibrant exchange of ideas, and criticisms are par for the course, and we respect the high tribunal's decision. But the kind of accusations Justice Carpio made were, as Mendoza reportedly characterized, "un-Supreme Court like."

* * *

Since last Wednesday, this columnist has been trying to get reactions about the decision. Some favored the Court, but others were quite upset over the trouncing of the people's sovereign will. The latter group included President Macapagal-Arroyo, who lauded the "patriotism, perseverance and courage" of all those who worked hard to propel the initiative. But many of those I spoke with, who had time to read either the news accounts or the decision itself, were quite aghast at the scathing tenor Carpio took in tearing up the initiative effort of Raul Lambino and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap). They referred to sweeping phrases such as "grand deception," "foisting a gigantic fraud on the people" and signatures "deceptively gathered" or "through false promises." One lawyer even termed the language "vicious." But to observers, what made the harsh tenor even more interesting was the fact that Carpio was formerly the head honcho of a law firm that everyone knew was once quite close to this administration and benefited from it immensely. Doubtless many welcomed his refreshing new independence. But the tenor?

* * *

Some commentators noted that Carpio didn't bother to qualify that some signatures could have been falsified, or that some overzealous local official could have indeed resorted to black magic. After all, when you're talking of nearly 10 million signatures gathered, it's easy to see that some of them could be falsified in this country where the birds and the bees have been known to vote. But the *ponente* termed it wholesale as "grand deception" or "gigantic fraud." Thus, observers argued, rightly, that he assailed and reviled the 1.7 million-strong Ulap, who manned the main flanks of the signature campaign all over the country. The local officials are said to be terribly hurt at being pictured as "deceivers." Inept and naïve, perhaps some are, but willful deceivers?

* * *

Initiative supporters find Carpio's sweeping condemnation of the signature process quite unfair. They say that, in fact, the opposition trailed Sigaw/Ulap people everywhere, backstopping their every move. In fact, in Makati, General Santos and a few other places, the opposition raised such a controversy that the signature campaign got bogged down for weeks. So, it would have been extremely difficult to monkey around with those signatures wholesale.

* * *

I share the sentiment of those who say that, perhaps, the people's initiative should be the first Charter amendment: strike it out as a way to amend the Constitution, and keep it just for recalling local officials. This is because the Court seems bent on making impossible for people's initiative to work. For instance, the high court decision kept insisting that each of the 6.3 million verified signatories should have read the many pages of the draft Constitution attached to the signature sheets. It cited as basis "relevant American jurisprudence on people's initiative" such as those issued by the Supreme Court of Massachusetts and the Court of Appeals of Oregon. But in the world's superpower, they have high-speed copiers in every corner. Where would a humble barangay councilor pushing initiative in the remotest boondocks of Agusan or Quirino get a Ubix to produce hundreds of copies of that draft charter?

* * *

The Court conveniently forgot that from the time that requirement was set down in RA 6735, communications technology has progressed. For many months, Sigaw/Ulap used radio, TV and local newspapers in the towns and cities, as well as countless barangay assemblies and parish councils, to reach out to the people regarding Charter change. Opposition and pro-initiative advocates clashed endlessly in debates in the provinces, and here on the big networks. Cecile Alvarez and I, for example, discussed the issues with guests over and over in our dzRH program, which is heard from Babuyan to Kalayaan Islands.

The integrity of those 6.3 million signatures was assailed wholesale and became a core issue in the Supreme Court decision. Justice demands that the Court reconsider Sigaw/Ulap's plea—which was also the stand of the seven justices in the minority—to remand the case to the Comelec, so that the poll body could settle this issue once and for all.

‘Yaya’ stories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SCRATCH A MIDDLE-CLASS FILIPINO MOTHer—or just talk to her for any length of time—and chances are you will reap a harvest of "*yaya*" stories. Yayas or nannies have become increasingly rare and difficult to find, or rather, difficult to keep, but they are still a presence in any Filipino household even of modest means.

Whether paid or unpaid—a poor relative, a student working for tuition, or a younger sibling—a yaya is the buffer between the mother working outside the home and the vicissitudes of what feminists call the "double burden." It is the yaya, or even just the household help, who shoulder half that double burden, taking on responsibility for nurturing and household chores and freeing up a woman's time and energy for "productive" work.

But while mothers feel deep, if often unexpressed, gratitude to the women who share their burden, there also lurks an element of jealousy and resentment in the relationship. Especially when their children's affections seem to have been transferred to the caregiver rather than to the parent.

There are yayas, and there are yayas. My sister and I shared a yaya in our childhood, but maybe because I was perceived as a favorite of my mother's, Yaya Basing showered my sister with more affection. I always felt resentful of such special treatment, so when my sister began looking for our yaya so she could invite her to her wedding, it was all I could do to keep my disdain from showing.

But not all wards are as ungrateful as I was (am?). Someone I know invited his yaya to stand as his *ninang* at his wedding. My friend Peachy has kept her "Yaya Esther" from the time her daughter Paola was an infant to this day, when Paola is already earning her own keep.

I haven't been as lucky when my turn came to hire yayas for my children. I once wrote that while as teenagers our biggest worry was how long our relationship with a boyfriend would last, when we became mothers, our foremost concern became how long our yaya would deign to stay with us.

I have my own favorite yaya story, though. I was playing a game with my then one-year-old daughter, pointing to our house help and asking her: "Who's that?"

"Yaya Fe," she answered when I pointed to our cook. "Yaya Bernie," she replied when I pointed to her caregiver. And when I pointed to myself, asking "Who am I?" "Yaya Mommy!" she piped up happily.

* * *

WE love them, we treasure them, we thank God when we find a kind and loving one, but we also sometimes resent them, or want to tear her eyes out when we find out a yaya has been mistreating our child or stealing from us.

And we curse every carpenter, delivery boy, security guard or boyfriend from home who takes a yaya away from us just when our lives had gotten comfortable and secure.

And now Unitel Pictures has just made a movie about a yaya.

"Inang Yaya" is not the first Filipino movie with a nanny as the main character. But it is one of the very few films that depict a yaya, and the relationship between her and her ward and the rest of the family, with realism and complexity.

The movie has all the elements of a soap opera: a single mother forced to leave her own child behind to earn a wage, a daughter coping with her mother's absence, a couple whose work takes them away from home for long stretches, a girl who looks to her yaya for the love and attention she lacks from her parents, snooty classmates, even a grandmother who looks down on those less fortunate than her.

But what the movie does with these stock characters is not just to flesh them out but also to turn them in unexpected directions. Many times, "Inang Yaya" strays dangerously close to melodrama but manages to skirt the pitfalls of excess.

Much of this is due to the work of Maricel Soriano, who plays "Yaya" Norma with deadpan efficiency and carefully nuanced emotion. Also noteworthy are the performances of the two girls who vie for Norma's loyalty and love: Tala Santos as the sturdy, self-sufficient Ruby, and Ericka Ureta as Louise, the "Inggliseral" ward.

* * *

"INANG Yaya" is directed by Pablo Biglang-awa Jr., a well-known commercial director whose first feature-length movie this is. His co-director is also the screenwriter, Veronica Velasco, who works as a line producer for Unitel.

"I was planning to submit the script to Cine Malaya, the independent film competition, and the synopsis had already been chosen as one of the finalists vying for funding," Velasco says. But then her boss, Tony Gloria of Unitel, asked to read the synopsis and the preliminary script and decided it was worth investing in. "Let's just do this," Gloria told them, and "because we had such a long-standing relationship with him, we decided to let Unitel produce it."

"Inang Yaya," says Velasco, is based in part on her own Yaya Tess, who has been with her since her daughter Louise, now 11, was born. But while Yaya Tess is single ("though she has had boyfriends," Velasco clarifies), she made "Norma" a single mother because Velasco's daughter has a friend who is the daughter of a yaya.

"*Isang yayang may malasakit, 'yung mapagkakatiwalaan* (A yaya who truly cares, whom you can trust)," is how Velasco describes Norma and Tess, and perhaps the yaya of every young mother's dreams.

In my day as a mother forever (it seemed) in search of a yaya, I dared dream of one who would not only feed my children on time or change their nappies without complaint, but also really love them, or at least care for them the way they would their own children, when their time came.

"Inang Yaya" is a tribute to all the yayas who fill parents' shortcomings with their presence, love and caring. This review is my way of thanking all the yayas who passed through my threshold, and helped us carry the load.

Leveling the playing field for 400 million children

COMMENTARY

James Morris

Hunger still kills more people than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. In the 21st century, this is simply unacceptable

OUR CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP IN AN INcreasingly competitive world, one where the race to the top starts earlier than ever.

In Japan and most of the West, schoolchildren face standardized tests at an early age that can set the pace for the rest of their lives. In some cases, these litmus tests for the future start as young as 5 years old.

As parents, we'd do anything to help our children through this rigorous process. Some of us spend huge sums on private education. Others move house to qualify for the best schools. And it doesn't stop there: there's tutoring, remedial classes, music lessons, study abroad, IQ testing, anything to give your child that extra edge.

In the developed world, we also worry about proper nutrition for our children and exercise to ward off the dangers of obesity. But while we're happy to talk about healthy bodies making healthy minds, it's been a long time since we had to worry about our children getting little or no food at all.

Unfortunately, for some 400 million children in the poorest countries, malnutrition is still the burning issue. This is not "merely" a question of a child going hungry, being underweight, unhealthy or physically stunted from malnutrition. Researchers now have documented that young children who are malnourished tend to grow up with significantly lower IQs than those who are well-fed, putting them behind the curve, in our competitive world, from the outset.

Recent research from Chile first established a direct link between brain volume and IQ (intelligence quotient). Put simply, the larger the brain, the higher the IQ. Given that 70 percent of our brain growth occurs in the first two years of our lives, the Chilean research shows that malnutrition in early childhood is likely to have a devastating effect on later mental performance.

Many other studies have shown that early malnutrition can have lasting effects on a child's ability to learn. A British research project examining 5,000 people born in 1946 showed that those with low birth weights suffered damaging intellectual effects throughout childhood and into adolescence, influencing school performance and university entrance.

Add to that the fact that many millions of the poorest children, especially in countries like Niger, Chad or Bangladesh, will probably not go to school at all, as their households need every hand to make ends meet. Other poor children may attend school sporadically, or with their minds on when the next meal is coming rather than on what their teachers are telling them. With their last chance to escape the poverty trap thus diminished, the potential of another generation is lost.

There's nothing wrong with wanting the best for our own children; it would be unnatural to wish otherwise. But next time you upgrade your child's laptop or book those extra tuition sessions, spare a thought for the millions of children whose fingers will never touch a keyboard, kids who will be lucky to learn basic literacy and math.

Oct. 16 was World Food Day, an occasion to remember the 850 million chronically hungry people around the world and to remind ourselves that after decades of decline, that number has actually been growing by millions each year since the mid-1990s. Hunger still kills more people than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. In the 21st century, this is simply unacceptable.

We can make a difference. There is more than enough food in the world. For example in Italy, once the population's nutritional requirements are met, there would be sufficient food left over for all the undernourished people in Ethiopia; in France, the "extra" could feed the hungry of the Democratic Republic of Congo, while in the United States it could cover all the hungry in Africa.

Official Development Assistance has been rising steadily for several years and now tops $100 billion. We can afford to help, but we need to develop a food first policy. Poverty cannot be eliminated until hunger and malnutrition are laid to rest. And one way to start would be to prevent hunger from cheating children of hope.

So this year, let us work together to help end hunger for the children, through simple interventions such as mother and child health and nutrition programs, and school meals to boost enrollment and attendance. With all the challenges these kids face, let's at a minimum enable them and their own children to get off to a running start.

James Morris is executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Prosperity theology

YOUNG BLOOD

Mark Isaiah David

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—***Ed.**

DOES GOD WANT YOU TO BE RICH? A RECENT TIME magazine cover story explored the boom being experienced by a church in America which concentrates on prosperity theology.

To be fair, aside from the occasional reminders about giving tithes, most churches rarely preach about money and good stewardship over material possessions. Preachers can be passionate about family issues, sex, or even politics, but they are likely to avoid talking about money. Maybe they feel that a believer's stand on that issue should be obvious ("The love of money is the root of all evil"—1Timothy 6:10). Maybe they think there are far more pressing issues that need to be discussed with the congregation. Or maybe they just find talking about the subject a little disconcerting (like I do), but the end of it is that most believers develop only a rudimentary understanding of biblical principles regarding how to handle this ever present concern.

No matter how rich or poor you are, money concerns are likely to hound you. After all, money affects your lifestyle, your plans, your reactions to certain things, even the way your family or your church is run. I've been with people who don't know where their next meal is coming from and I have worked with one of the richest men in this country, yet both wake up in the morning and go to bed at night thinking about the same thing: how to get more money. And yet Jesus, in His most important sermon, seemed to dismiss it altogether (Luke 12:27). Why would you even concern yourself with such things, He asked.

His seeming total disregard of money is backed by the promise that God will take care of you; all you need is to have faith. But while this is easy to believe when you are typing an article in an air-conditioned office, it is quite another thing to sing, "God is good, all the time," when your stomach is churning with hunger and your little girl is tugging at your shirt, demanding to know when she could have her milk.

Perhaps this is the reason those who already believe find prosperity theology so attractive. For why shouldn't you have both Jesus and a prosperous life, after all? If you believe that the Father loves you, that He is able to do anything, and that He owns everything, why not pray for and expect an affluent existence?

Prosperity theology is not without biblical verses to support it. The Bible is replete with promises of abundance and blessings for those who follow the way of the Lord. For a person who wants to believe in a God who promises not only salvation from sin but also prosperity in this life, Joel Osteen and his upbeat television sermons would seem like a voice straight from heaven itself.

But as Time noted, the biggest problem with prosperity theology is that it shifts your attention from the gift-giver to the gift itself. "God becomes a means to an end, not an end in Himself," a Southwestern Baptist preacher was quoted as saying. This makes one no different from the 19-year-old girl who marries a multi-millionaire octogenarian because she "really loves him." If we find this girl's act repulsive, how would it compare to accepting the blood of the Messiah so we can have that sports car?

For the believer without discernment, it would be hard to distinguish this shift in focus. Like all effective lies, prosperity theology has some elements of truth which it changes into something else. Instead of eternally standing in gratitude and awe for the redemption of one's soul, the focus of adoration shifts to "gaining the whole world and also my soul."

Prosperity theology can also foster discontent. Osteen's best-selling book, "Your Best Life Now," focuses on financial gain and material wealth, sugar-coated to look as if that is what is meant by the Scriptures. In Osteen's view, believers should expect bigger and better things because God cannot wait to pour out His blessings on them. He implies that because God wants to help you, the world will give you preferential treatment. In other words, God wants to make it easy for you.

This flies in the face of what Jesus actually said: that the world will deny you because after all, the world denied Him. The New Testament is full of warnings and reminders that the Christian life would be narrow and difficult (Matthew 7:14) and that we should be ready for trials and persecutions (2 Timothy 3:12). In seeking to make one "feel good" and "get more out of life," prosperity theology twists the Scriptures for its own insidious ends.

Prosperity theology also implies that people who are suffering are those who lack faith. However, Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose-Driven Life," scoffs at the idea that God wants everyone to be wealthy. "Baloney," he says. And I agree. The very idea that faith automatically converts into worldly blessings speaks of an arrogance worthy of a Pharisee. What about the blind or those who have cancer or who live in war-torn places? And what about the ones who die despite all the prayers, and the ones who fail even though they have absolute faith in the one true God? Are we all egoistic, spiritual retardates to claim that it's their fault that they didn't get better?

This is my second most important problem with prosperity theology (the foremost being the shift of adoration from the gift-giver to the gift): that our attention is directed to what happens to us instead of what we become despite what happens to us. Knowing the God of the Bible, I get the impression that He is far more concerned about our character, about how we react to Him, more than what happens to our physical bodies. Remember that dude named Job?

Although it cannot be denied that God blesses everyone—both believers and even His enemies (Matthew 5:45)—He wants more for us. Scratch that: God wants the best for us, and that certainly goes far beyond material wealth.

All of my childhood and adolescent years, I have wondered why God allowed me to be poor. Now I know. I know I need to experience poverty so I would become more and more like His son rather than have a more difficult time going to His kingdom than the camel passing through the eye of a needle.

Mark Isaiah David, 25, is an assistant manager at GMA Network Inc.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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LETTERS

Win for world community

ON SEPT. 15, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL made a remarkable contribution to the effort to ease the suffering of the people of Burma (Myanmar)—it voted 10-4 to include the military-ruled country in its formal agenda. As widely known, Burma has drawn international condemnation for detaining hundreds of political opponents, including Burmese democracy icon and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi who has been under house arrest for most of the past 17 years.

As expected, the Burmese military junta met all accusations against it with sharp denials. Citing that Burma's problems are merely domestic concerns, the junta is now at a loss on how to spin a fitting alibi for Burma not to be included in the council's agenda. Even the state-run newspaper, The New Light of Myanmar, must hire a new editor with special skills in fabricating lies, because the rag (pardon the double pun) simply cannot convince the international community to believe that the generals in Rangoon have committed no crimes.

The people of Burma and the international community have all the reasons to rejoice because finally the UN's most powerful organ has taken notice of the illegal regime in Rangoon—a regime that rapes its own women and exploits its own workers.

Immediately after Sept. 15, the junta ran amuck. Arbitrary arrests of activists then followed. Former political prisoners, Min Ko Naing, Min Zeya, Ko Ko Gyi, Htay Kywe and Pyone Cho were arrested by the military junta at their homes and they have not been seen since.

The junta earlier accused the detained activists, all of whom are members of the 88 Generation Students group, of creating "instability and unrest," and of having links with exiled activists. The arrests of five activists drew flak from the international community. As of this writing, the five are still under detention with no trial being set to prove their innocence. But wonder not. In Burma there is no rule of law. The law rests only in the hands of those who intend to manipulate it. In Burma, don't expect justice, because the junta acts as the complainant, lawyer and judge—and executioner—all at the same time.

Indeed, Burma's inclusion in the council's agenda is a battle won for the international community. It offers a broader space for a democratization process to move inside Burma. But as the ruling junta continues to violate the rights of its citizens, the task of the UN security council should not be limited only to Burma's inclusion in its program of work. Such inclusion would become meaningless if the council would not adopt a substantial and binding resolution that is able to immediately halt the political attrition against all opposition groups and activists inside Burma.

—AUGUSTO MICLAT JR.,
executive director,
Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID) and convenor, Free Burma Coalition-Philippines (FBC-Phils),
27 Galaxy St., GSIS Heights,
Matina, Davao City

Review the President's power to suspend

THE ILLEGAL SUSPENSION OF MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay raises some policy questions:

1. Is there a need to rationalize the disciplinary rules governing local officials to protect and promote even more the concept of local autonomy?

At present, a local government official can be placed under two kinds of suspension: preventive/summary and punitive. Both may be imposed by the Sandiganbayan, the Ombudsman, the Office of the President, the Department of Interior and Local Government, or a higher legislative council—depending on the applicable authority. This setup of too many sources of disciplinary authority weakens local autonomy as local officials are open to harassment by too many sources.

There is therefore a need to review the system of disciplining local officials.

2. Should the President be allowed to summarily suspend a leader of the political opposition?

The suspension order against Binay shows that preventive suspension can be used as a weapon for totally partisan purposes by a vengeful and unforgiving President.

The power of the President to preventively suspend local officials should be limited to those belonging to his/her own party. This does not mean opposition officials can never be suspended. They may be subjected only to punitive suspension, that is, only after investigation and hearing.

Suspension as a penalty is different because it can be appealed and, hence, deferred; unlike in case of preventive suspension which is effective immediately, even without hearing.

3. Should a non-lawyer be allowed to head the DILG?

Secretary Ronaldo Puno defended the decision to suspend Binay by saying that the evidence of guilt is strong. Though not a lawyer, Puno should have known about the basic and well-known legal doctrine that "he who alleges something has the burden of proving it."

Roberto Brillante alleged the existence of "ghost employees" in Makati City Hall, without naming any one of them. Is bare allegation already "strong evidence of guilt"?

Given the DILG's investigative and quasi-judicial functions, it's best that its head be a lawyer familiar with basic legal doctrines.

—AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III,
San Juan, Metro Manila

The facts behind 'last-minute' request

IT'S AMAZING WHAT SOME QUOTATION marks can do. I'm referring to Marinel R. Cruz's article—"NCCA, FDCP reject independent filmmaker's 'last-minute request.'" (PDI, 10/8/06) The "last-minute request" in the title is a quote from an interview with me. But Cruz seems unconvinced that De Guzman's request for a travel grant was actually made at the last minute.

Let's stick to the facts. The request for a travel grant to attend the San Sebastian International Film Festival in September was made in August. The NCCA secretariat screened the request and did not send it anymore (quite rightly) to the Cinema Committee which meets once every two months. Its next meeting then was scheduled in September. So, there was really no way that the committee could have acted on the request. The committee had made a ruling a year ago that all requests and project proposals could only be processed during regular meetings. The ruling allows the committee to avoid being forced into making decisions by influential individuals who want to fast-track their requests and not go through the proper process.

Moreover, requests and proposals that are approved by the committee have to go through the subcommission on the arts (not subcommittee, as erroneously reported), before they reach the NCCA board for final deliberation. Since the subcommission and the board have their own schedules, the entire process takes anywhere from three to six months.

De Guzman, Cruz adds, was just expecting an assurance of reimbursement. The problem is that the NCCA does not make reimbursements for travel grants or expenses for any project. And that is a ruling from the Commission on Audit (Cruz omits this in her article).

Finally, Cruz writes that "the NCCA has 'supported' De Guzman in the past." The word "supported" is in quotation marks, putting some doubt on the word. Well, if P650,000 for De Guzman's three film projects (plus P200,000 for a Writer's Prize, which Cruz fails to mention) does not qualify as legitimate support, then I don't know what does.

I agreed to the phone interview with Cruz to shed some light on the "rejected request." I should have known that it would be difficult to get a fair deal if the one doing the article is an "interested" reporter.

—CLODUALDO DEL MUNDO JR.,
head, NCCA Cinema Committee

I believe that I wrote the article as objectively and as fairly as possible.

I called up Mr. Del Mundo to get the side of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. I used quotation marks on the phrase "last-minute request" and the word "support" simply to point out that this was exactly the way Del Mundo described De Guzman's request for subsidy and the financial help that the NCCA had extended to the filmmaker in the past.

—MARINEL R. CRUZ,
PDI reporter

It's time to close the Manila Zoo

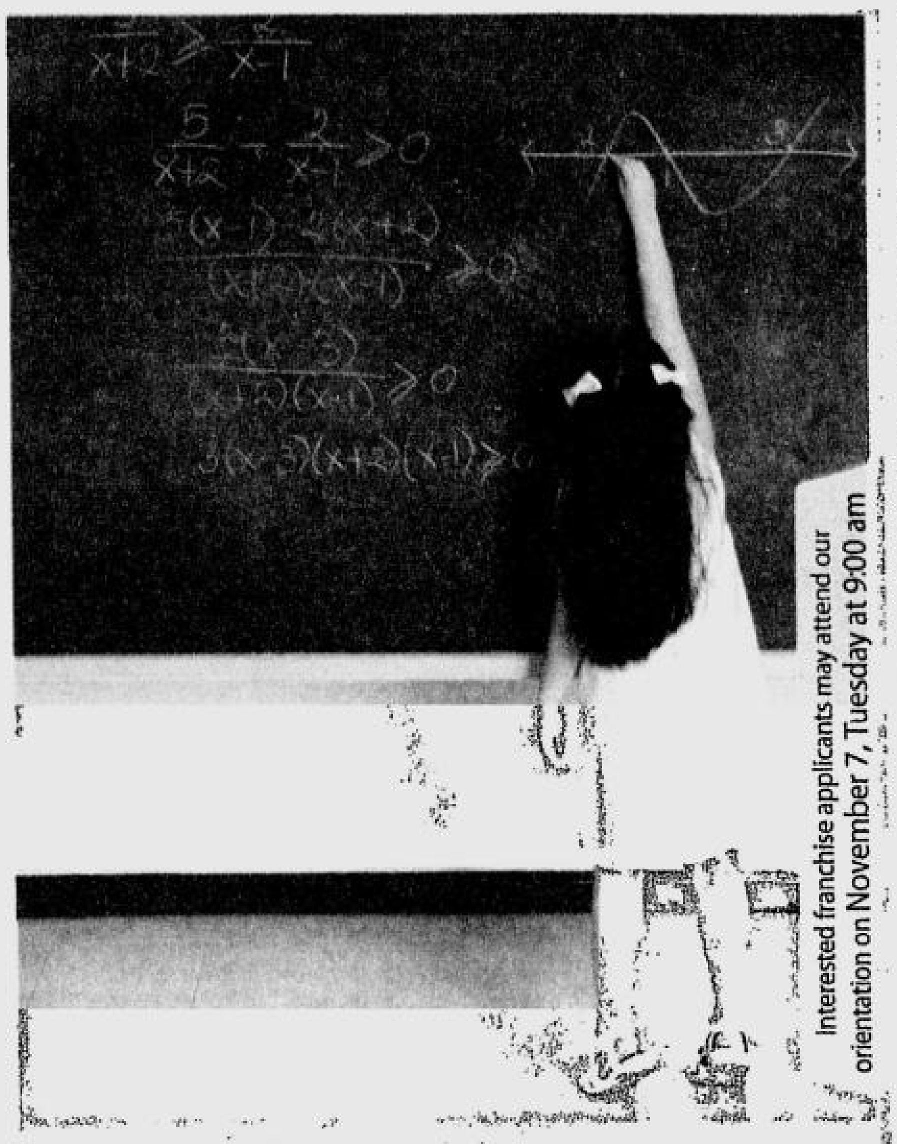
WE AT PETA ASIA-PACIFIC AGREE WITH THE Ecological Society of the Philippines that conditions at the Manila Zoo are deplorable. (PDI, 10/22/06) Animals are neglected, the zoo itself is filthy and no effort is being made to improve these conditions.

But instead of trying to bring back the "grandeur" of the zoo, the best solution is to close it down. For years, officials have promised to make improvements, but one look at the zoo—where malnourished animals are being kept in cramped, dirty cages with no space to roam—and you'll know that nothing has been done. It is heartbreaking that we let this situation continue.

We recently got reports that in December, the zoo will be bringing in three giraffes from Calauit Island in Palawan. It would be a shame to bring more animals into that decrepit facility when zoo officials cannot provide adequate care even for the ones already there.

We've already spent too much time talking about improving zoo conditions, while the animals suffer. Time is up. It is now time to close down the zoo for good.

—JASON BAKER,
director, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific,
JasonB@petaasiapacific.org



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Loans improve lives of Negros poor

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

WHAT HAVE A battered wife and a female farm worker in common? They both overcame adversity through the help of a project patterned after the Grameen Bank.

Virgie Navarro Borde, 51, and Emma Morales, 45, were living in poverty, until they availed of Project Dungganon's loan facility.

Virgie and Emma are just two of the thousands of success stories produced through Project Dungganon, started in 1989 in Negros Occidental by the Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation Inc. (NWFTI), thanks to the vision of Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus and the Negrenses who replicated it in this part of the world.

Awardees

The two are also Citibank's micro entrepreneur of the year national awardees. Virgie won her award in 2005 and Emma in 2002.

Virgie was a battered wife and a jobless mother of four when her husband left her in 1987. Virgie, who lives in Bago City 22 km south of here, said her husband maltreated her when he got drunk. When her husband went to Jeddah to work as a carpenter, he did not send her any money. She later married Abelardo Galleto, 50, a polio victim who was unable to earn a living.

Virgie recalled that they lived in a small shanty built over an irrigation canal in Barangay Malingin, Bago City.

With very little capital, Virgie struggled as a fish vendor until she heard of Project Dungganon in 2003 and joined the group. After attending seminars, Virgie availed of a P5,000 loan. With her business thriving, she took out more loans to start a small convenience store and buy a hand tractor that she rented out.

Today, she owns seven hand tractors and two rice threshers for renting, a house and lot and a 1.5-hectare farm.

She also owns a van that her son, Antonio, uses to deliver grocery goods they sell to small stores in Bago City. Two of her children are in college while one is in high school.

Emma and her husband Gerardo did backbreaking work planting rice in Manapla town, about 45 km north of here, to earn their daily wages in 1987.

They were so poor she left her children with sliced sugarcane to chew on while she and her husband were at work in the rice fields, Emma recalled.

Small business

Emma's family, who lived in a small hut made of coconut fronds, did not have food to eat three times a day.

"Life was difficult until 1989 when I discovered Project Dunganon and availed myself of a P1,000 loan to start a small business," she said.

She started selling candies and other items targeting the students of the Manapla Elementary School. Later, she branched out into selling *arroz caldo* (rice porridge), cosmetic and plastic ware products.

The Morales family now owns an eatery, a grocery and a motorcycle repair shop, and they raise hogs.

Her son, Tootsie is now 26 years old and a mechanical engineer working for a sugar mill while her daughter Jennifer, 24, has a degree in education.

Project Dungganon was patterned after Yunus' Grameen Bank, providing micro credit to the poor, especially women, to give them a chance to better their lives.

When the People Power uprising forced Ferdinand Marcos into exile, businessman Daniel Lacson Jr. was appointed governor of Negros Occidental.

Lacson, having heard of the work of Yunus, sent then Negross Occidental Board Member Cecile del Castillo, executive director of NWTFI, to Bangladesh to learn about the Grameen Bank.

Del Castillo's task was to replicate the program in Negros, which was then reeling from a drop in sugar prices and coping with widespread malnutrition problems.

In 1989, with a grant of P5 million from the Canadian International Development Agency and P1 million from the provincial government, the NWTFI began Project Dungganon to help the poor women of Negros.

"Dungganon" is a Hiligaynon word for "honorable," which reflects the recognition of a people's right and capacity to achieve a sense of nobility on their own resolve, Del Castillo said.

In the first four years, they provided loans to 7,000 women in Negros. Today they have 74,448 loan beneficiaries not only in Negros Occidental but also in Negros Oriental, Cebu, Palawan, Samar, Leyte and Bohol, NWTFI chairperson Wilhelmina Gonzales said.

NWTFI now owns a five-story building that houses the Dungganon Bank, Inc., a microfinance thrift bank in Bacolod City. It has P801.4 million in disbursements and a loan portfolio of P378.8 million, as of August this year, Gonzalez added.

Repayment rate

The NWTFI has a loan repayment rate of 96 to 97 percent, NWTFI researcher Gilbert Maramba said.

He noted that 52 percent of their clients of more than five years have improved their lives, and 29 percent of those classified as very poor are no longer very poor.

"Our mission is to bring the message of hope—to alleviate women from poverty and bring back dignity to their lives," Gonzales said. "It's not just money that we lend to this women. They are taught values that they must live by in order to avail of loans and succeed."

Poetic joust during wakes makes the grieving smile

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

MANY RITUALS FOR THE DEAD IN Western Visayas are long, elaborate and expensive but those mourning do not always have long faces because poetic jousts can make them smile.

"Lo-a," also spelled "luwa," is folk poetry recited during traditional nine-day prayers after the burial of the dead. Delivered as a poetic joust between men and women, it intends to console and cheer up the grieving family.

Long before the sending of text messages through mobile phones became popular, *lo-a* was also a social activity where young men and women find, flirt and get acquainted with possible mates. These days, scholars grieve for the *lo-a's* demise because they are rarely done even in rural areas. The mourners are now busy with card games, mahjong and bingo rather than the traditional poetic repartees that exhibit wit and the creative use of language and rhythm.

Amorita Rabuco, a former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in the University of San Agustin, and now literature professor of the same school, said that *lo-a* is a "spontaneous and instinctive Ilonggo folk verbalization revealing their creativity."

Retrieval

Rabuco, with the help of her students, had retrieved 311 *lo-a*, which they translated to English and, in 2003, published in a book, "Folk Poetry: The Lo-a."

John Iremil Teodoro, of the university's Coordinating Center for Research and Publications, said that Rabuco's book on *lo-a* is the most extensive critical work, making her the expert in the region.

Game

Reciting *lo-a* is part of a game played during the wake. One common game is called *bordon*, where men and women sit on a floor in a circle, sing and pass around a ring that is hidden from the "it." When the singing stops, the person holding the ring recites a *lo-a*.

The person may then give the ring to the member of the opposite sex, who will also have to render a *lo-a*. Aside from a ring, the game may pass around a pebble, plate, hat, handkerchief or candle. But *lo-a* rendition is a must.

Rabuco wrote that *lo-a* displays the Ilonggo's love for musicality and fascination with end-rhymes. The major contribution to the musical quality of *lo-a* is the repetition of final accented vowel or consonants.

"Pito ka bukid ang akong ginlakbay/
Leon kag tigre ang akon ginpang-away/
Pero wala ko ginbali ang kabudlay/
Asta malab-ot ko larawan mo Inday."
("There are seven mountains I crossed/
A lion and a tiger I wrestled with and maimed/
I minded not the difficulties/
Merely to catch a glimpse of you, Inday.")

The sound and rhythm in *lo-a* are also helped by the use of alliteration, assonance with onomatopoeic impact, said Rabuco.

Rabuco's book has divided the *lo-a* into three categories—those recited by women, those recited by the men and those that are neutral or gender-free. The female-recited *lo-a* admonishes, encourages or turns down a suggestion of the male-recited *lo-a*. The neutral *lo-a* could be just a play of words or a source of folk wisdom.

"Mga bitu-on sa langit/
May malaka, may ma-ikit/
Subong man sang sa duta/
May tigulang may bata."
("The stars in the heaven above/
Are spread apart, and are close-knit/
Like down below here on earth/
The old and the young do not meet.")

Mental direction is shown in the *lo-a*, said Rabuco, implying the action of "up and down." The idea suggests the generational gap between young and old, true in many contexts and milieu.

Double meaning

The *lo-a* is also replete with double meanings and images of nature, clues to the locals' relationship with their surroundings. It can be coy, naughty, teasing, direct and tinted with social context. Like the case of this female-recited *lo-a*:

"Tintin ka na uwak/
Latay sa margoso/
Margoso nga mapait/
Para sa soltero nga maanghit."
("Hop and hop you bird-crow./
Step on the bitter gourd/
Amargoso of bitter taste/
For a young man with foul odor.")

As smell is important for many women looking for a husband, the *lo-a* expresses disgust for a man's foul odor. The use of crow is clever because Ilonggo folk dislike the bird while *margoso* is not favored because of its bitter taste, said Rabuco.

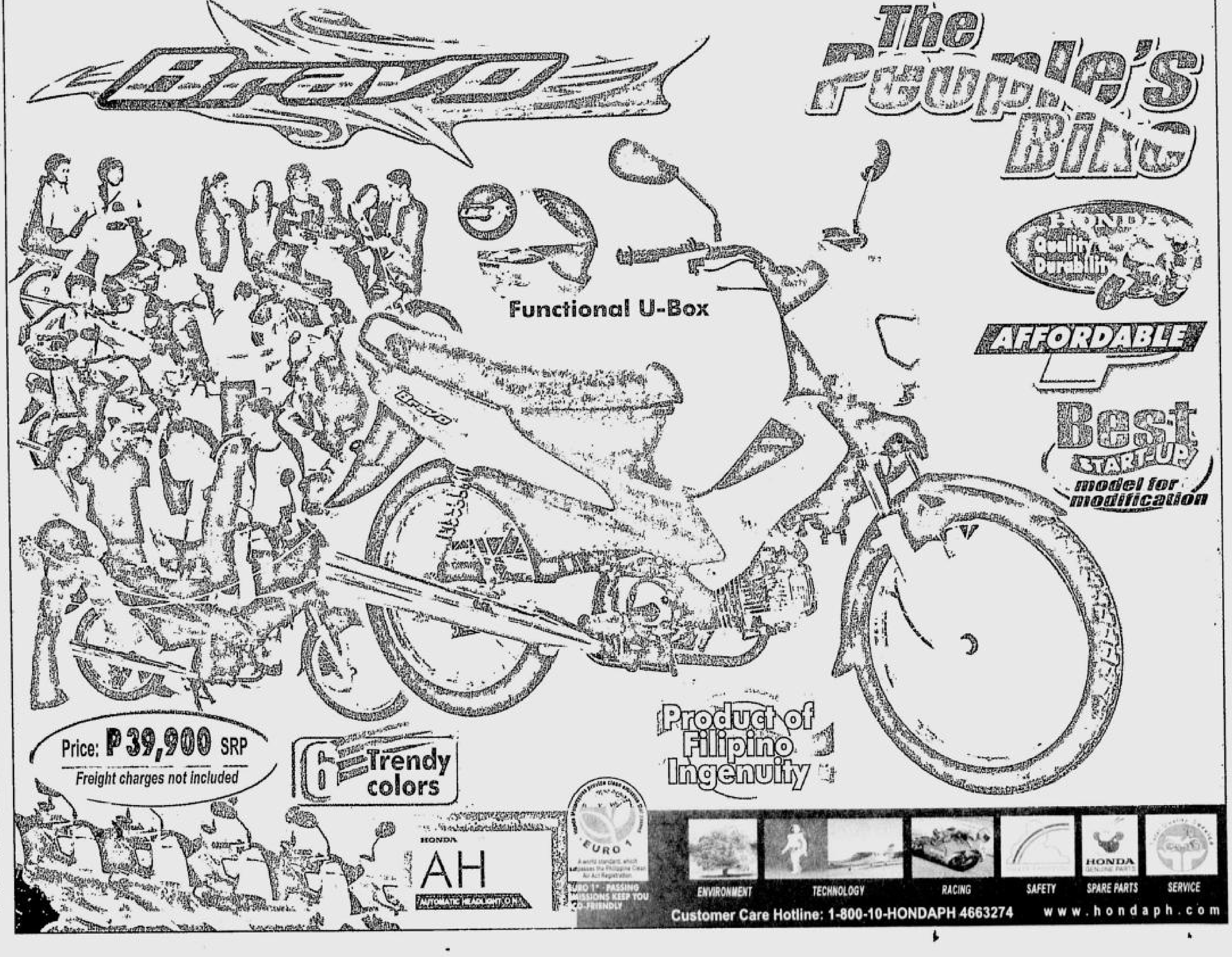
Personal qualities are also addressed in a *lo-a*, showing the values and world view of Ilonggos.

"Kon ako ang mamana/
Pili-on ko guwapo/
Kon wala ako kuwarta/
Iprinda ko sa bangko."
("If ever I'll get married/
I'll chose one who is handsome/
If I don't have money saved/
Bank collateral he'll become.")

The *lo-a* also expresses sexuality and are recited without inhibitions. In fact, they are a form of flirtation. A *lo-a* of this kind uses metaphors to refer to private parts with naughtiness of a female-recited *lo-a*.

"Sa idalom sang taytay/
May army nga napatay/
Bulag-bulag ang lawas/
Pero gatindog ang armas."
("Down below, beneath the bridge/
A soldier is lying dead./
His body parts are scattered/
Yet, his gun still stands erect.")

The *lo-a* is a dying art of the living, just as other Western Visayas's indigenous poetic forms such as *paktakun* (riddles) *composo* (rhyming song) and *pagdayaw* (praising a local beauty queen), among others. With them go the lyricism, skill of weaving words, the world view and the source of wisdom awfully needed in the fast-paced age.



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Clark-Subic expressway 42% complete

Delays of more than 10 percent prompt rush work

By Tonette Orejas, *Inquirer Central Luzon*

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—AT LEAST 42 percent of the 94-km Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway has been finished and its contractors have fast-tracked construction activities to stop the project's more than 10 percent delay, the president of Bases Conversion Development Authority said.

"Slippage," or behind-schedule marks at the Package 1 or the 51-km Subic-Clark segment, totaled more than 10 percent while Package 2 or the 43-km Clark-Tarlac segment reached 8 percent, according to Narciso Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive officer.

Abaya also said the Japanese contractors of the project would pay for the delay.

Sources involved in the project, however, said the project should be 54 percent complete by now if not for the slippage.

"The accomplishment report should be based on plans and programs, including actual timelines," said the source, a contractor who is in charge of one of the segments of the expressway.

"We have continuously assessed the progress of the project with our contractors and consultants. We are confident, and this is also agreed upon by the Japanese contractors, they will finish it on time and at cost, meaning there will be no over budget," Abaya said in a telephone interview.

He described the slippage to be a "little high," but said the dry months until the onset of May would help normalize the work schedules.

The contractors—Kajima, Obayashi, JFE Engineering and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Joint Venture for Package 1 and the Hazama, Taisei and Nippon Steel Joint Venture for Package 2—have started working on two shifts, 20 hours daily, he said.

Abaya said the delays have been caused by disputes over right-of-way, by sub-contractors who abandoned the work or who failed to meet deadlines, and by strong typhoons since July.

The contractor-source, however, said the BCDA should answer for the delays because of its failure to acquire right-of-way, delay in its approval of scope of work, and the intervention of mayors who are lobbying for "a piece of the pie" that led to the increase in the slippage.

Abaya said he saw no major hitches in the run-up to the November 2007 opening.

"The Japanese contractors report to the BCDA board every other week. The entire BCDA board is monitoring the project," he said.

The controversies that had hounded the BCDA—the Poro Point Port contract and "advance commissions" allegedly paid to top BCDA officials—have not set off the focus of the state-owned agency on this major infrastructure project by the Arroyo administration, Abaya said.

SPELL FUN

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Street performers in colorful masks were the feature of the 27th year of Bacolod City's Masskara Festival that drew thousands of local and foreign tourists. The festival has been identified with the colorful and gay masks that are sold in the city's streets every year for the feast.

China source of funds for Pangasinan water system

DAGUPAN CITY—THE CHINESE government is financing a feasibility study for the establishment of a major pipeline and water treatment plant to supply potable water from the San Roque multipurpose dam in San Manuel town to eastern and central Pangasinan, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr said.

He said Chinese Ambassador Li Jinjun, whom he hosted during a visit here last week, had informed him about the project's approval.

The Speaker said Gov. Victor Agbayani, through him, proposed the project to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In his letter, Agbayani said the availability and quality of water from traditional sources, especially in coastal areas, has dramatically declined due to saltwater intrusion.

"The project is envisioned to supply potable water to major urban centers like the cities of Urdaneta, Dagupan and San Carlos, and other adjoining towns along the route," Agbayani said.

A feasibility study is needed to determine the viability of using San Roque dam as a major source of potable water without affecting its capacity to produce power and irrigate farmlands in Pangasinan, he said.

De Venecia said the Chinese government would finance the feasibility study while the establishment of a major pipeline and treatment plant would be a long-term loan. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

US soldiers wield brushes for classroom paint jobs

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AFTER DElivering medical equipment for use by hospitals serving impoverished communities in Mindanao, visiting American soldiers went around the city and started repairing school buildings.

The US servicemen were crewmen of the USS Harpers, which docked here several days ago.

Maj. John Redfield, public affairs officer of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTFP), said the community work being done by the crewmen were part of the commitment of the US military to help the people of Mindanao.

"They are still here so they use their quality time for community works," Redfield said.

The 20 US servicemen hammered new materials on dilapidated school buildings, such as in Pasalobong Elementary School. They also did some painting works on the school buildings, which are currently unoccupied as pupils are on a semestral break.

They also hauled in huge boxes loaded with cookies and biscuits, sewing machines, textbooks and sport supplies, which the children could use once classes resume.

Ibrahim Saral, Putik district school supervisor, said the Americans have been doing carpentry works for several days already.

Saral said he was thankful to the US servicemen because the government has no funds for repair jobs.

Some locals, including children lured by the presence of the Americans, have also started to help in repairing the school.

Ten-year-old Erwin Mejia said he even asked his father's permission so he could have a day's break from farming.

In his little way, Erwin said he wanted to help.

Along with some locals, Erwin moved desks and chairs so the American servicemen would have bigger rooms to work.

Petty Officer 1st Class Mario Malong, a native of Olongapo City, said they were happy to help.

"We are fortunate that we were able to extend little help to our fellow Filipinos, and I am happy to see young children still eager to go to school despite the distance they have to go through," he said. ***Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao***

Magandang Hapon I
BE POLITE
ReFCAM

AN AMERICAN soldier repaints a classroom of the Pasalobong Elementary School in a remote area about 8 to 10 km from Zamboanga City.

JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Int'l relief aid groups, RP NGOs commit funds to help Guimaras folk

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

JORDAN, GUIMARAS—INTERnational and local relief and funding agencies and nongovernment organizations have committed to fund the rehabilitation of oil-spill contaminated areas on the island and provide alternative livelihood to affected residents.

At least 13 agencies, institutions and NGOs pledged their support to fund programs and projects in the next five years during the Donors' Forum organized by the provincial government at the capital town of Jordan on Thursday.

The proposed programs focused on rehabilitation of marine resources especially the mangroves and providing alternative livelihood to affected residents, mostly fishermen and shell gatherers.

Representatives of the agencies and organizations presented their plans and areas of concern during the day-long forum.

The international relief agencies and funding institutions include the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), the German Development Cooperation (GTZ), World Vision International United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Canadian International Development Agency, Oxfam and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

The NGOs that attended the forum were the League of Corporate Foundations, Petron Foundation, Peace and Equity Foundation, the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), Save the Children, Taytay sa Kauswagan, Save Our Lives, SOS!, Pagatpat Foundation, and the Panay Rural Development Council Inc.

The University of the Philippines in the Visayas has offered its technical assistance especially in research and monitoring of the effects to the environment and community. The League of Corporation Foundations (LCF), a network of at least 69 corporate foundations, including the Philippine Daily Inquirer, is planning to establish mangrove nurseries and support a mangrove rehabilitation program, said Allan Victorino, chair of the LCF communications committee.

The LCF also plans to bring in computers for public schools and provide alternative livelihood like hog raising and poultry production and cosmetology.

NBI sues 3 Taiwanese, Canadian for illegal casino in Clark

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation (NBI) has filed illegal gambling charges against the foreign and local directors of an alleged illegal virtual casino operating in the Clark Special Economic Zone in Angeles City, Pampanga.

The Taiwanese incorporators and directors of British Grand Vision International Co. Inc—the company behind the alleged illegal casino—were identified as Chang Wei Chieh, Yang Jen Chieh, and Wang Teng Li, all residing at the Parc Royale Condominium, Dona Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The NBI likewise filed charges against the company's Canadian director Steve Jing Chen Huang, also a resident of Parc Royale Condominium, Dona Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, and Filipino incorporator Edgar Lim, of Antel Seaview Condominium, 2626 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

At least nine managers and assistant supervisors, 10 Chinese and Taiwanese online dealers, and 33 Filipino online dealers also face illegal gambling charges, according to NBI Special Action Unit chief Vicente de Guzman III.

The NBI had seized an estimated P30 million worth of expensive cyber equipment used in illegal online gambling during a raid at the Transglobal Building, Andrew Street, Civil Aviation Complex, A. Bonifacio, Hangar 7260, Clark Special Economic Zone, Angeles City, Pampanga last Oct. 17.

A complaint filed by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) at the NBI alleged that British Grand Vision International was behind the illegal casino's operations.

Pagcor Chair Ephraim Genuino, through his chief legal counsel Carlos Bautista Jr., said that the British Grand Vision International had begun operating an Internet casino without any permit from the government agency early this year.

The Pagcor officials also told the NBI that the online casino was so profitable that nearby casinos at the Mimosa and Fontana recreational parks "have been losing money."

De Guzman said that after applying for a search warrant, the agents raided the establishment and seized casino tables, dealers' chairs and fixtures, TV sets, casino playing cards, "shoe boxes" for the playing cards, computers with plasma screens; webcams and digital video cameras; and servers used to send live casino games to the Internet.

Investigation showed that in order to play the online casino games, the clients were required to download the software provided by the operator and install it in their computers.

The players are then required to create an account with the online operator before playing games such as "baccarat (a card game)." Female online dealers then interact with the clients through webcam.

"Anybody in the country, even those based abroad, could participate in the online games," De Guzman said in an earlier interview.

Sierra Madre logging feeds poaching syndicate

MAUBAN, QUEZON—THE WANTON unlawful cutting of trees must be stopped in the Sierra Madre forest in northern Luzon and northern Quezon to put an end to the use of this coastal town as a major transshipment point of illegal lumber, the local head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Thursday.

Oscar Ferrer, community environment and natural resources officer, said the ultimate solution to end the smuggling of hot lumber in this town at the northern tip of the Sierra Madre, depends on the prevention of illegal logging in Isabela province and the Sierra Madre forest that lies in the border towns of General Nakar, Quezon and Dingalan, Aurora province.

"Once the illegal logging has stopped in those areas, there would be no more smuggling of illegally cut lumber here in Mauban. The war should start at the source," Ferrer explained.

The DENR authorities said the hot lumber from the said areas were transported to Mauban, 157 km east-southeast of Manila, by tugboats from the Pacific Ocean.

Ferrer said they recently organized a multisectoral group to guard the frontlines in their revitalized campaign against illegal logging syndicates which have been using Mauban as a take-off point.

Last week, local government officials led by Mauban Mayor Fernando Llamas along with the DENR, police and the Philippine Coast Guard vowed in a memorandum of agreement to stop the use of Mauban as a transshipment point of illegal lumber.

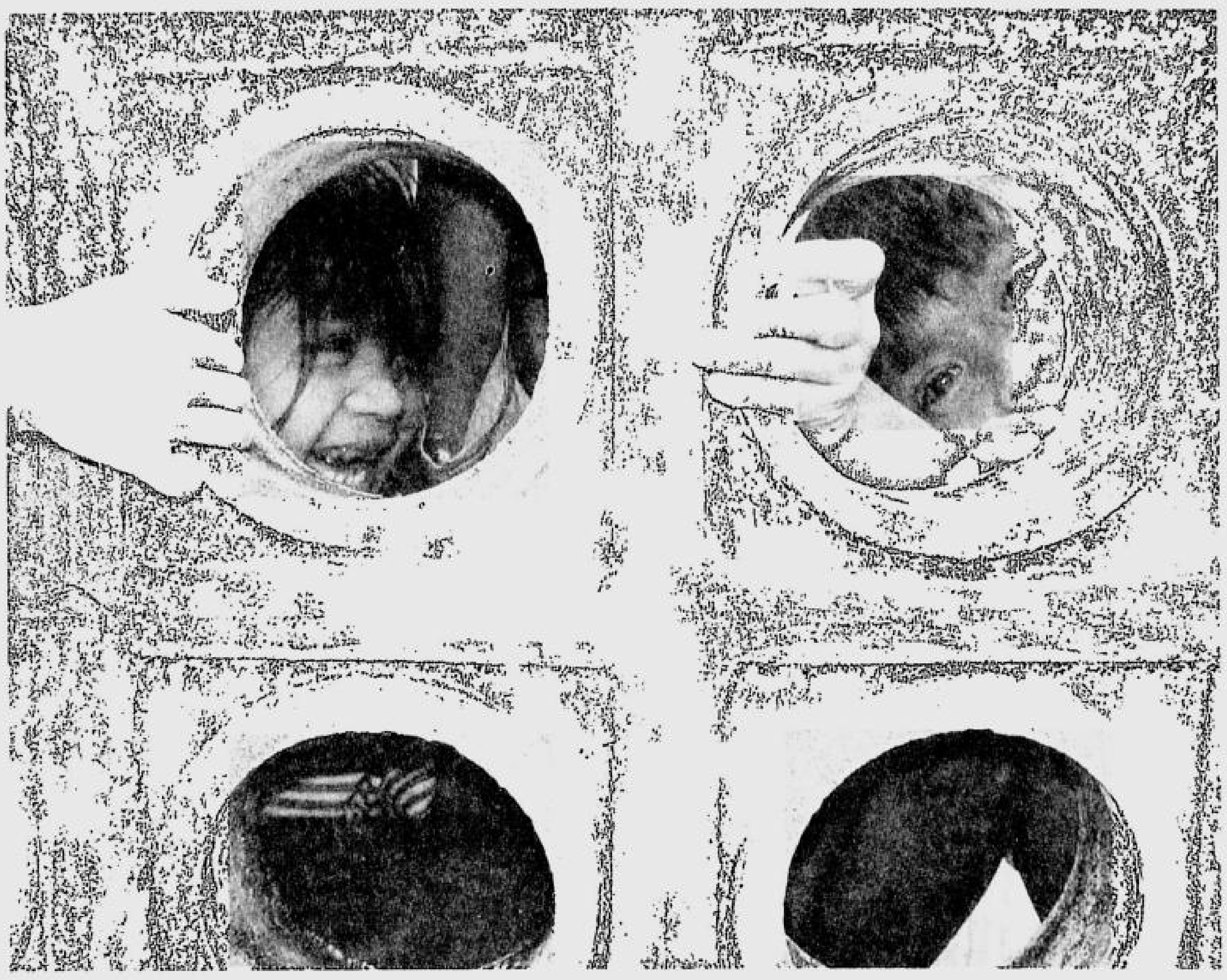
Ferrer said the DENR has also dissolved several of their monitoring stations along the Mauban-Tayabas-Lucena routes to give way to the newly formed multisectoral checkpoint located in this town.

"With the multisectoral approach," the battle against illegal logging has now become a major public concern giving it more teeth. It's no longer the sole domain of the DENR," he said.

Mauban has become a frequent take-off point of trucks carrying illegal timber, which earned it a tag as a "center of illegal logging operations" with the connivance of unscrupulous DENR official and personnel.

It was believed that a former head of the Quezon-DENR was axed due to his unholy alliance with the Mauban-based illegal loggers.

The rampant smuggling of hot lumber in Mauban, according to Quezon board member Eladio Pasamba, a native of Mauban, was due to the existence of the so-called "Mauban Boys," a local group of illegal logging syndicate. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. Inquirer Southern Luzon*



ARNOLD ALMACEN INQUIRER VISAYAS

PEEPHOLES
Children use tombs at the Tanza Cemetery in Iloilo City as their playground, seizing the chance to roam around the burial grounds ahead of All Souls Day when hundreds of people are expected to flock to the graves of their dead loved ones.

Military says No. 3 woman rebel in Leyte, her aide are captured

By Jani Arnaiz
Inquirer Visayas

ORMOC CITY—AN ALLEGED high ranking communist rebel and her security aide were arrested in the town of Leyte in Leyte province, the military said on Thursday.

Captured was Nilda Pilos Montajes, 42, allegedly a ranking member of the Southern Leyte Front (SLF) as head of its education arm, and her aide, identified as Richan Dejon Pernis, 25.

Lt. Col. Lope Dagoy, commanding officer of the 19th Infantry Battalion, said the two were captured by soldiers from the 19th IB and 43rd IB in Barangay Calaguesi, Leyte, Leyte.

Recovered from them were a fragmentation grenade, a hand grenade, and several communist documents. They were arrested while riding a Honda motorcycle with license plate IR-1993, which was likewise seized by the military.

Dagoy claimed that Montajes, who he said was also known by her aliases "Lorena Opo," "Lala," "Mera" and "Pamela," was the No. 3 woman rebel in the SLF.

Dagoy said the arrest of the two suspected rebels should serve as a warning to rebels operating on Leyte Island.

"I have to emphasize this to the people of Leyte that I am very passionate in my resolve to meet my own personal deadline to dismantle the SLF. While they still have time to think, I urge them to surrender or leave the place now before the full might of my unit will catch them," Dagoy said.

Last September, Dagoy announced he was giving himself six months to a year to crush the insurgency in Leyte.

The capture of the two rebels followed the killing in January of Bebiano Rentillosa and in August of Nestor Caliwan, reportedly the top communist commanders in Leyte province.

In another development, Dagoy said two former rebels were killed on Oct. 11 in the latest purging of communist rebels accused of being deep penetration agents of the government.

The two were identified as Mario Singson, 38, a councilman of Barangay Mahayag, Ormoc City, and his nephew Renato Singson, 25.

Dagoy said the two and their wives were on their way home from Barangay Mahayag to Sitio Patining of the same village when a group of unidentified men wearing bonnets stopped the couples and shot them dead.

ROUNDUP

Mayon alert level lowered

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has lowered the alert level of Mayon volcano from two to one. The Phivolcs, however, continued to warn against entry into the 7-km extended danger zone and the 6-km permanent danger zone around Mayon. It also warned against straying into rivers and areas that are lahar-prone. It said Mayon was heading for normalcy since the last monitoring on Oct. 3. The alert level was lowered as a 4.1 magnitude earthquake shook Masbate and Sorsogon on Thursday.

Joanna Los Baños, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Wanted man wounded in clash

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—One of Cavite's most wanted men was wounded when he exchanged shots with policemen who tried to arrest him early Sunday night in Alaminos, Laguna. Senior Supt. Abner Cabalquinto, officer in charge of the Calabarzon police, said Wilson Ramirez, listed as the eighth most wanted criminal in Cavite, was the primary suspect in a murder case in Trece Martires City and has been in hiding for several years. He said Calabarzon and Alaminos policemen went to the suspect's hideout in Barangay Palma at around 6 p.m. to serve his warrant of arrest when Ramirez opened fire, starting a gunfight. Ramirez yielded after he was hit in the right leg. He was immediately brought to a hospital.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Agrarian reform exec slain

DAVAO CITY—An unidentified gunman shot dead the agrarian reform officer of Mati town in Davao Oriental on Oct. 21. Supt. Belflor Causing, public information officer of regional police command, said the police were still trying to establish the motive of the killing of Dennis Nazareno, 52, head of the Mati municipal agrarian reform office. The victim was killed while he was withdrawing money from an Automated Teller Machine.

Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

4 men rob students in bus

COTABATO CITY—Four armed men robbed a bus, with mostly students aboard, along the Cotabato-Davao highway on Oct. 21. Sultan Kudarat town police chief Senior Insp. Decalingan Masla said the robbery happened at about 2:30 p.m. in Barangay Simuay in Maguindanao. Masla said two of the suspects, who pretended to be passengers, took a Cotabato-bound Weena bus at the bus terminal in Pikit, North Cotabato while their two other companions boarded in nearby Midsayap town. The suspects divested the passengers, many of them students of the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan town, of their cellular phones and other valuables, including about P7,000 in bus fare.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

2 robbers killed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—An alert security guard gunned down two suspected robbers, one of them an active Navy man, who held up a convenience store in Dasmariñas, Cavite on Wednesday. Dasmariñas police chief Supt. Mario Reyes identified one of the slain suspects as Lito Peñaranda, a resident of Barangay Biga, Tanza, Cavite. The other suspect remained unidentified. Reyes said the suspects entered the Mini Stop convenience store outside the First Cavite Industrial Park in Barangay Langkaan 1 at around 4 a.m. and immediately announced a holdup. He said Peñaranda disarmed security guard Rodel Medrano while his companion ransacked money from the cashier.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Wire thieves arrested

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Intelligence operatives of the Calabarzon police recovered P5 million worth of stolen electrical wires and arrested five persons in Cabuyao, Laguna on Thursday, police said on Friday. Among those arrested were Ann Ross Tabali, driver Angelito Menor, Raulito Gono, Johnny Espino and Rogel Desuasido. Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan, newly appointed Calabarzon police director, said the suspects were employees of a certain Gabby Ang, a scrap metal dealer believed to be in cahoots with a syndicate involved in stealing electrical wires. In a statement, Radovan said the five were arrested after intelligence police operatives found hundreds of kilograms of high-tension electrical wires loaded in a truck in Barangay Pulo at around 8 a.m.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

The dead returned first in lahar-buried town

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

BACOLOR, PAMPANGA—THERE'S a long-running joke in this town, and it never died.

"*Minuna la pang minuli reng mete ka reng mabye* (The first to return home here are the dead, not the living)," cracked Board Member Nilo Caballa, easily drawing laughter from among early tomb-cleaners like him at the Sta. Ines public cemetery on Wednesday.

From the banter, the kind of laughter the joke drew was not humiliating to the dead or to the living.

"It is more of a tribute of sorts to the living who take care of their dead," said Caballa.

Despite their close brushes with death and despite suffering tragic losses, residents still found the bearing to fulfill the wishes of loved ones to be buried in their town even as it had been damaged by Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions and entombed later by lahar, Caballa said.

The worst lahar onslaught came in a single swoop at dawn of Oct. 1, 1995.

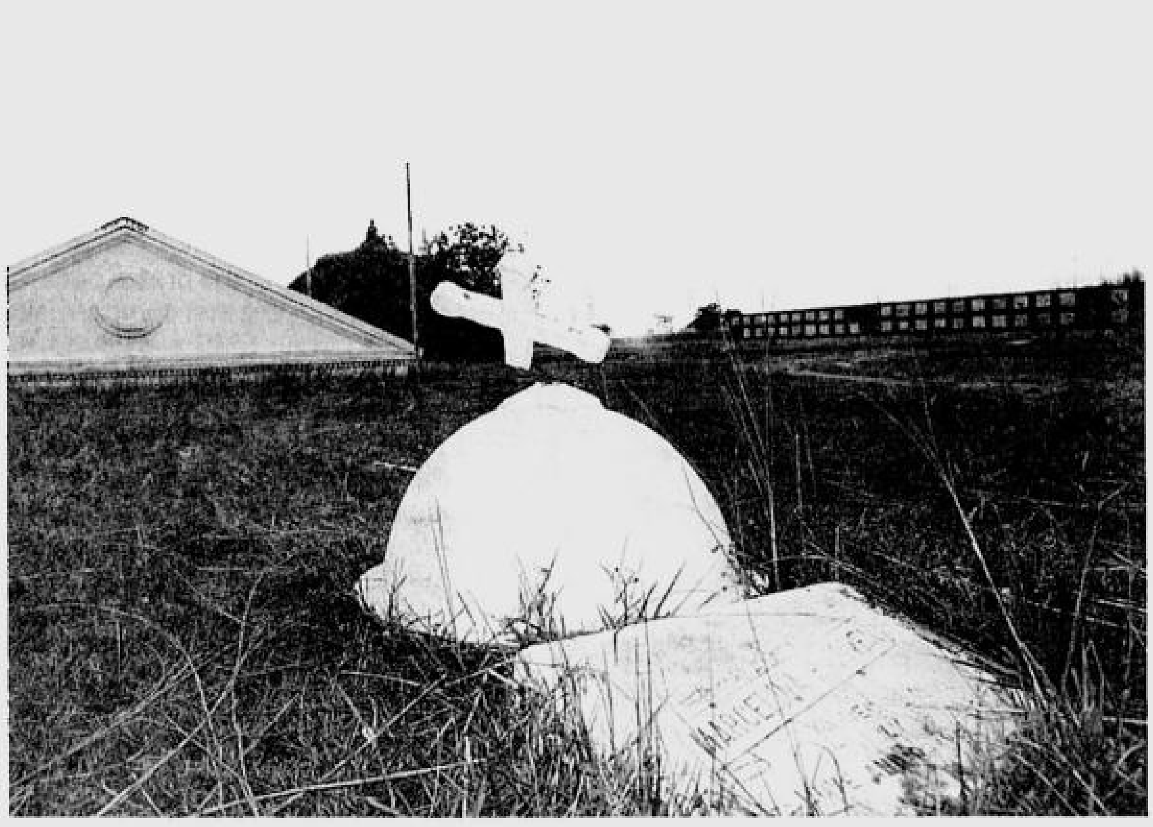
Residents carried out what to Caballa was a Herculean task.

At the cemetery, which residents call "*Patirik-tirik*" (literally, in death throes), they had to dig under 10 to 20 meters of lahar to recover the remains and rebury these in new graves built on top of the old ones.

Lyrie Ann Soto said the tip of the roof—the only thing that remained of the family's mausoleum—served as reference point for locating other tombs.

Tracing exact plots using that sole landmark amid an all-gray landscape often ended up in maze-like searches that she observed to have begun in 1998.

This was about the same time that her family rebuilt their house and the grave of her parents in Sta. Ines. Residents, she recalled, never gave up until they hit the right mark.



BURIED niches are being revived in Bacolor town to honor the dead. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Display of wealth

Those with means have rebuilt elaborate mausoleums. Others put the reminders of the disaster by reinstalling the statues of stone angels, saints and crosses unearthed in the course of the diggings.

Quite many afforded only modest graves. But many more, for lack of money, were contented with the "apartments" or small niches piled on top of the other.

A few, like Soto, raised the grave by a meter to save it from future floods or lahar.

The almost 1,200 plots have all been revived, and 210 new concrete receptacles have been built to store bones, according to Councilor Melchor Alfonso, chair of the town council's public utilities committee.

He said the reasons are varied on why the burial is done in the old town and rarely in the seven resettlements where more than 60,000 Bacolor residents were transferred or in other towns where others had taken up residence.

"*Maka-Bakulud la pa mu rin* (They have a strong sense of attachment to our town)," he said.

> 'It is more of a tribute of sorts to the living who take care of their dead...'

An engraved poem in the crypt of poet Rosario Baluyut, who chose to be buried in Bacolor in 2002, captured that deep love of town.

It says: "*E ca paimburis, balen cung malugud/Aliwa mung supling a queca linaut/Nung mate la deti—tanggapan mong lubus/Butul da at laman, banque marirunut/Qng manayang aun carin mo pacutcut;/Inia mal cang dili-ba len cung Baculud* (Grieve not, my beloved town/Though your children have strayed far from you/When they die—receive them wholly/Their bones, their flesh, cold corpse/Let your land be the final resting place of their souls/This is the reason why you my hometown Bacolor is the most precious."

There's also an economic reason.

A plot in a private cemetery at the resettlement costs between P25,000 and P30,000, Alfonso said.

Just outside the FVR Megadike, which ringed at least 17 Bacolor villages that are now unwillingly the catch basin of lahar, a private cemetery has been opened.

Located in Barangay Maliwalu, it is home now to 10 graves.

But the town's illustrious sons did not suffer neglect.

Cultural monuments for Juan Crisostomo Soto, the most prolific playwright and poet in the renaissance of Kapampangan literature in the late 18th Century; Guillermo Tolentino, who organized the Katipunan in Bacolor and southern Pampanga; and legislator Pablo David had been built in prominent places.

As for the living, Caballa and Alfonso said the returning has been slow, with not less than 5,000 families back in the town. The rest could not return to Bacolor because the dike had occupied their old villages, they said.

SPORTS

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Evening **SUERTRES** Mid-Day

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(All in exact order)

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WELCOAT big man Gilbert Lao (top) battles Red Bull point guard Warren Ybañez for possession in their game last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Barako slay Dragons

Happy thoughts help Giants soar to victory

By Musong R. Castillo

FOR SOMEONE WHOSE TEAM CAME ROARING BACK FROM 17 points down to prevail, Yeng Guiao certainly did not sound at all pleased.

"We're lucky to escape with a win," Guiao said, a few minutes after Red Bull struggled to post an 80-77 decision of newcomer Welcoat in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations last night. "We are expecting a lot more difficult games for us, especially from the top contenders.

"But, we'll take a win anyway we can," he added. "*Ang importante ay manalo* (The important thing is to win)."

While Guiao rued how his Barako struggled to slay Dragons, Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio was grinning like someone who overdosed on fairy dust after the second game.

Gregorio said that like the popular fairy tale character Peter Pan, all it has taken so far for Purefoods to fly are happy thoughts.

The defending champion Chunkee Giants outsteadied Alaska last night for their third straight win, 82-78.

"For the last three games, I've done nothing but show them winning moments," Gregorio narrated. "I worked on their minds. We were successful the past two conferences because we were always positive.

"There were no physical adjustments," he added. "Just happy thoughts for them."

After opening up horridly with losses in all but one of their first four games, the Giants jumped into the upper rung of the standings at 4-3, thanks largely to a rejuvenated crew of veterans and the consistent play of young guard Peter June Simon.

Late Sports
More stories on A23 to 26

The former Davao Eagle in the defunct MBA came off the bench to scatter 21 points and be the puzzle Alaska coach Tim Cone failed to solve as the Aces lost for the fourth straight time and dropped deeper in the cellar at 1-5.

Purefoods actually trailed, 57-64, going to the halfway point of the fourth period when the Giants dropped an 18-7 bomb to lead, 75-71.

Red Bull's fourth victory in six games, which is worth a piece of second place with idle Barangay Ginebra and Talk 'N Text, was not as smile-inducing.

Not only did the Bulls trail, 22-39, but the catch-up job which they churned out was clearly not pleasing to the eyes—with open shots missed, lousy errors committed and a number of veterans playing way below par.

Mick Pennisi helped the Bulls gain ground in the second quarter by shooting 13 of his topscoring 22 points, and rookie Carlo Sharma broke out with a career-high 20 points and his first career double-double with 11 boards to power Red Bull.

The scores:

First Game

RED BULL 80—Pennisi 22, Sharma 20, Valenzuela 14, Alvarez 7, Ybañez 5, Baguio 4, Villanueva 4, Fonacier 2, Cruz 2, Najorda 0, Bugia 0, Robinson 0.

WELCOAT 77—Cabatu 22, Tangkay 13, Gelig 10, Reyes 8, Wainwright 7, Ibañes 6, Lao 4, Baguion 3, Lopez 2, Sta. Maria 2.

Quarters: 20-26, 43-46, 66-67, 80-77.

Second Game

PUREFOODS 82—Simon 21, J. Yap 18, Raymundo 14, Evangelista 9, Pingris 7, R. Yap 7, Limpot 6, Bautista 0, Salvador 0, Castillo 0.

ALASKA 78—Belasco 18, Cariaso 17, Miller 13, Thoss 8, Singson 7, Dela Cruz 7, Ferriols 6, Laure 2, Luanzon 0, Juinio 0.

Quarters: 16-17, 33-36, 52-58, 82-78.

Beermen reactivate Ildefonso

GAMES TODAY (*In Subic, Zambales*)
4:30 p.m.—Air21 vs San Miguel
(*In San Fernando, Pampanga*)
5 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Sta. Lucia

SLOWLY, THE SUPERPOWER IS TAKING shape.

San Miguel Beer reactivated two-time Most Valuable Player awardee Danny Ildefonso yesterday, making him available for the Beermen's match against Air21 in Subic, Zambales, today.

The 6-foot-5 forward rejoins a revamped Beermen squad that looks every inch a powerhouse quintet poised to dominate the field after starting the PBA Philippine Cup off with three straight defeats.

But those three defeats were nothing but smokescreens to hide what the Beermen truly are: An all-star team that can go 11 deep every game.

The Beermen lost their first three matches because Danny Seigle, Ildefonso and Brandon Lee Cablay, easily starters in the squad, were decommissioned by injury.

Seigle has returned and the Beermen have won two straight games. Now, it is Ildefonso's turn to return and he will debut against the Express at 4:30 p.m. in Subic today.

Ildefonso joins a squad toughened by a mid-conference trade that netted ex-Ginebra big man Rommel Adducul and former Red Bull star Lordy Tugade. They play an Express team beefed up by No. 2 overall pick Arwind Santos.

In the other out-of-town match, Talk 'N Text battles Sta. Lucia at 5 p.m. in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Managing Energy Consumption is in a Company's Hands with

GEMS
GLOBE ENERGY MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

Electrical Consumption- a Fact of Life or a Resource to Be Managed Effectively?
All companies require the use of electricity in order to conduct business. From air conditioners and lights that run in the background to more mission critical equipment such as computers and heavy machinery are all powered by electricity, which is consumed round the clock in order for a business to survive and grow. Unfortunately energy costs money, with companies spending millions on an annual basis on their electric bills alone. The question that plagues most managers is: **"Is there a way to lower my energy consumption without affecting the way I do business?"**

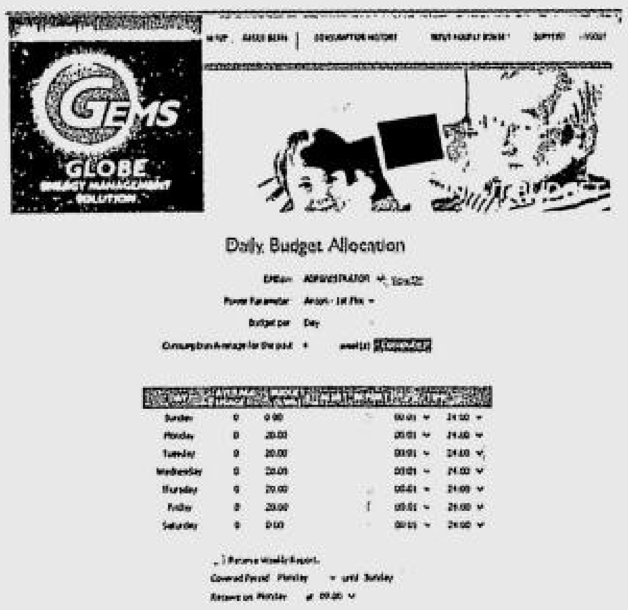
Managing Energy- There Must Be a Better Way
Attempts have been made by companies to manage their energy consumption. Some even hiring people who's only role is to go from one office location to another to check and compare electrical consumption. This employee would log in all this information manually and encode it into a worksheet later for management to analyze at a future date. Although this is an earnest attempt at managing energy, there must be a better, faster more efficient way to do this. **Globe Energy Management Solution (GEMS)** just does that.

GEMS- a Solution to Energy Problems.
GlobeSolutions with the help of its partners **M2MI³** and **Raffles Solutions & Services, Inc.** have created a solution that will help you monitor your energy consumption from various locations; sending the information wirelessly via GPRS to an online portal that not only collates the information but also converts it into a graphical form for ease of interpretation. An example would be comparing a company's monthly power usage over the past 4 months. You could quickly see via the GEMS portal whether your steps of saving electricity are paying off and how much more you need to do.

Budgeting and Instant Alerts- Keeping Companies Always Informed at a Moments notice
By being able to automatically monitor information you want on an hourly, daily, weekly and even on a monthly basis, companies are better able to identify electrical usage patterns and more importantly do something about it. **GEMS'** budgeting function allows you to assign preset limits on a per hour or per day basis as well. Going over that set limit triggers an instant SMS alerts received on a cellular phone. This means that companies can now be on the ball at all times and consequently, are able to do something about their electrical consumption at a moments notice. A simple example would be if a company left their air-conditioning system on at night in one of their store outlets accidentally. Since this would be out of the preset pattern, the manager of that company site would get an SMS alert that he's using too much energy- prompting him to investigate and have the air conditioner shut down immediately. On the opposite side of the scale would be instant alerts for power outages to various company locations which would be particularly important during the typhoon season.

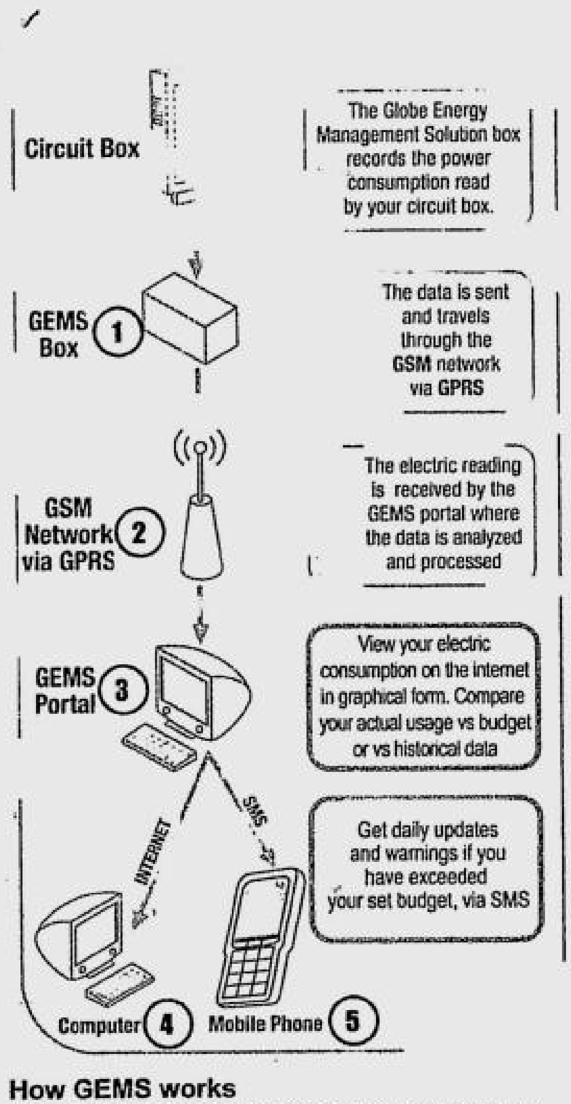
What Does the Future Hold?
Energy consumption is the first step in managing a company's environment. **GlobeSolutions** along with its partners are not stopping there. There are already discussion on how the **GEMS** solution can be applied to other fields. One fast food company is already discussing how **GEMS** can manage the temperatures of all its freezers making sure they are always at the optimum temperature. A call center is making sure all its floors' air conditioners are set at the proper rate - saving money and stopping their employees from getting sick from too-cold a work environment. The bottom line is that **GlobeSolutions** and its associates are willing to build solutions together with its clients adding value in how to better the way their clients do their business.

If your company wants to manage its energy consumption more effectively call the **GlobeSolutions** hotline at **(02) 730-1999 to find out how.**



Daily Budget Allocation

GEMS' budgeting function allows you to assign preset limits on a per hour or per day basis as well.



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The Globe Energy Management Solution box records the power consumption read by your circuit box.
GEMS Box ①
The data is sent and travels through the GSM network via GPRS
GSM Network via GPRS ②
The electric reading is received by the GEMS portal where the data is analyzed and processed
GEMS Portal ③
View your electric consumption on the internet in graphical form. Compare your actual usage vs budget or vs historical data
INTERNET
SMS
Get daily updates and warnings if you have exceeded your set budget, via SMS
Computer ④
Mobile Phone ⑤

How GEMS works
Using a web-based portal og Globe Energy Management Solutions(GEMS)

- View energy consumption reports on an hourly basis.
- Set Daily or hourly consumption budgets and receive alerts via SMS when budgets are exceeded.
- Set daily reports to be received by authorized users via SMS.

Text message
GEMS HRLY ALRT
as of 03/21 2PM:
Power consumption
4 d hr is 46kWh
(36kWh over budget)

Set notification and alerts to be received by authorized users via SMS when budges are exceeded.

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700 Pasay City employees dismissed

Ousted workers plan class suit vs acting officials

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CHRISTMAS MAY BE BLEAK THIS YEAR FOR some 700 Pasay City Hall employees.

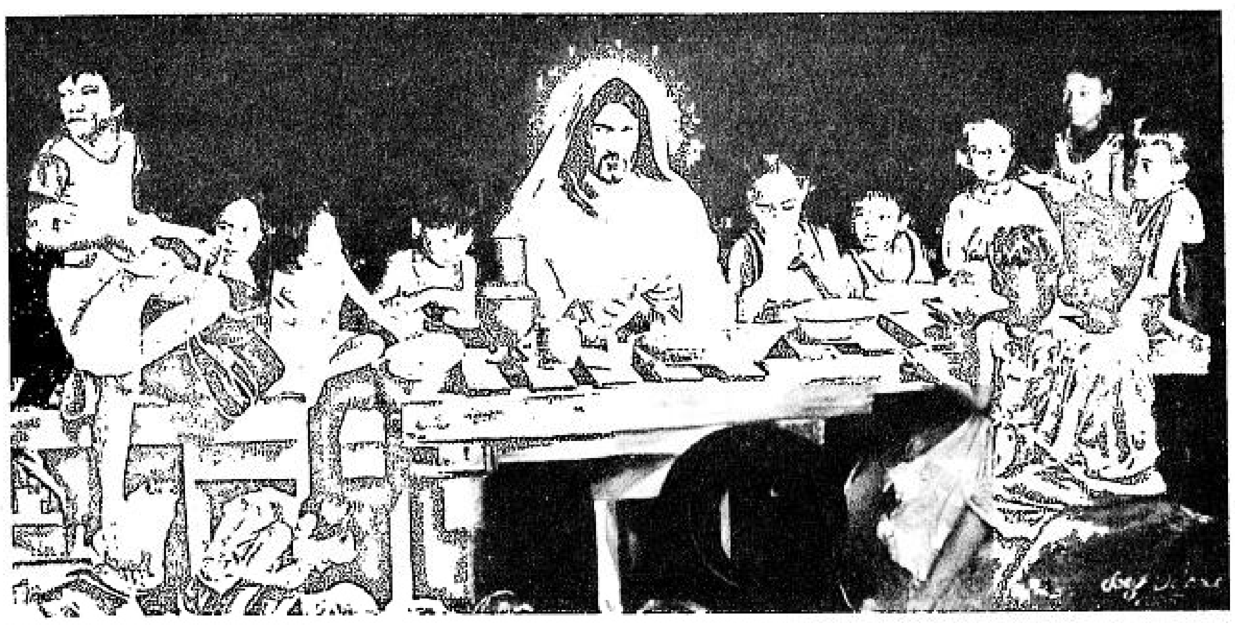
Acting city officials are terminating the services of casual and contractual employees, legal researchers and consultants in the office of the mayor, city administrator and office of the vice-mayor.

An INQUIRER source, who requested anonymity, said the 700 or so employees would be jobless by the end of the month.

In a memorandum the other day, acting Mayor Allan Panaligan informed 20 security agents, clerks, utility workers and 53 consultants in the office of the mayor and city administrator that their services were terminated as of yesterday. A similar memo was issued on Monday by acting Vice Mayor Arvin Tolentino to all regular staff, casual employees and consultants appointed by suspended Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto. The employees were considered terminated as of last Wednesday.

Calixto, Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad and 11 city councilors are on preventive suspension for six months for allegedly entering into anomalous contracts involving garbage collection and disposal.

"The termination is whimsical and malicious. Removing co-terminus employees was wrong as the term of the suspended officials had not ended," said a source. He described as a shotgun approach the way the termination order was served, saying these were posted on bulletin boards. He added that they were already preparing a class suit charging Panaligan and other acting officials with illegal termination and abuse of authority.



STREET KIDS IN ART
Artist Joey Velasco documents the world of street children through an ongoing exhibit at ArtAsia Gallery in SM Megamall. 'Hapag ng Pag-asa,' shown above, is one of several oil paintings in the exhibit. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hospital negligence issue nothing new

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

HEALTH SECRETARY FRANCISCO Duque recently came out with the results of an investigation of the Rizal Medical Center, saying the deaths of seven new-born infants at the facility were not caused by the hospital's negligence and dirty equipment. The investigation also showed the babies' mothers had infection of the blood which they had not acquired at the hospital, he added.

Although Duque said the investigation revealed "some degree of negligence" on the part of the hospital, Duque said the probe team did not find a link between contaminated equipment and the outbreak of neonatal sepsis, the cause of the infants' deaths.

Were the probers dined and wined so they would come up with a decision favorable to the government hospital? If not, were they motivated by camaraderie—the "them and us" syndrome—since those involved are government health people and the probers are from the Department of Health?

A former student nurse, who did on-the-job training at the RMC three years ago, said the hospital had dirty equipment and the staff didn't care to sterilize these. The complainant, now a licensed nurse, said the staff didn't have any regard for the patients' well-being. Doctors and nurses were also allegedly arrogant toward mothers about to have babies.

As I said in my column dated Oct. 17, the alleged shabby treatment of patients at the RMC delivery room was brought to my attention by the student nurse in the now defunct "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" program. This columnist, in turn, informed Dr. Winston Go, RMC director, about the complaint.

You know what happened to the nurse? She was expelled by her school for coming to me.

I fought for the student nurse and got the services of lawyer-friend, Vicente Chuidian, who made representations with the university to reinstate her.

Because my attention was now focused on having the student reinstated, the complaint on how the RMC staff handled their patients was shelved and eventually forgotten.

***

The Clark Development Corp. (CDC), the government agency that runs the former US Air Force Base in Pampanga, signed with a private firm a lease contract to build a casino and resort hotel.

My source said the firm bagged the contract for a song, and that somebody at CDC allegedly got P50 million.

The Office of the Ombudsman should look into the contract to see if the allegation is true.

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Any wine connoisseur will tell you that keeping the temperature stable in the warehouses is crucial to maintaining the quality of the liquor. And since Mike's warehouses in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Subic and Baguio are all on Sun, he doesn't think twice about the cost. Daily updates are reported to him about inventory, deliveries, sales, collections, and on-premise promotions, in real-time too.

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UP, Ayala to set up sci-tech park in QC

By DJ Yap

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES signed a contract yesterday with Ayala Land Inc. to develop a science and technology park in Quezon City.

One of the biggest collaborations yet between academe and business, the partnership will see the rise of the UP North S&T Park, an ambitious "multi-billion" research facility on Commonwealth Avenue in Diliman.

Top brass

University president Emerlinda Roman and Board of Regents chair Carlito Puno and Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala and president Jaime Ayala signed the contract during a luncheon meeting yesterday at the UP Executive House.

Present at the signing were Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., former UP president Francisco Nemenzo Jr., UP regent Abraham Sarmiento, and Ayala Land senior vice president Ma. Victoria Añonuevo.

Historic venture

Puno described the contract as a "historic" venture, a model of development for other public and private colleges and universities.

Though he did not mention how much the project would cost, Puno said it was the first "multi-billion" partnership between an academic institution and a business organization in the country.

Sprawling campus

A primer on the project revealed that the future S&T park would be built on a 37.5-hectare property that will be converted into a sprawling campus of several four-story buildings for 40,000 full-time employees.

Companies located in the park will be in high technology fields, like telecommunications, telematics, information technology, and biotechnology.

High value

Others will be in high-value business process outsourcing, including animation, software development, design and engineering.

"The park will provide exposure for UP professors and students to world-class companies and the latest technologies and trends," the primer said.

Learning laboratory

Ayala said he envisioned the park to be a "dynamic learning laboratory" where a community of students, teachers and business leaders converged to make commercially relevant advances in science and technology.

Leading R&D university

Roman said the S&T park was important in strengthening the UP's position as the leading research-and-development university in the country and in the region.

"Governments all over the world have recognized the all-important link between scientific expertise and economic development, and universities have set up S&T parks adjacent to their campuses," she said.

Examples

She mentioned Bangalore and Hyderabad in India, Tsukuba Science City in Japan, Haiden Science Park in Beijing, Singapore Science Park, and California's renowned Silicon Valley in the United States.

METROBRIEFS

E-mail senders charged

POLICE yesterday filed charges against two women alleged to be among the sources of information passed through e-mail last week warning of a bomb plot against a mall in Mandaluyong City. The alleged attack did not materialize but it was enough to cause alarm among mall-goers, and for authorities to deploy more policemen in the area. The e-mail "caused and created public confusion and disorder and posed grave and positive danger to public safety and security," said intelligence and detective management bureau head Chief Insp. Rolando Vilar of the Eastern Police District in the complaint filed against Emily Melad and and Irma Cruz in the Mandaluyong City Prosecutor's Office. The two allegedly e-mailed messages saying police arrested an Abu Sayyaf member who had revealed a plan to bomb SM Megamall last Saturday.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Makati drive vs drugs

MAKATI CITY authorities swooped down on a compound of shanties suspected to be a lair of drug peddlers and thieves in Barangay Guadalupe Viejo before dawn yesterday. Members of the Makati Special Weapons and Tactics team, the Station Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force , operatives of the Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council and barangay officials walked through the narrow passageways of the Laperal Compound to flush out the suspects. Makati police chief, Supt. Gilbert Cruz said that out of 200 persons rounded up during the two-hour operation, only six remained in police custody for pending drug-related cases.

Tarra V. Quismundo

Enchanted Halloween

ENCHANTED Kingdom's Spooky Halloween Gathering Costume Competition is spookier, kookier and creepier! The tilt is open only to walk-in guests who come in their scariest costumes patterned after a widely known Halloween, animé, comic, cartoon or fantasy character. Guests who qualify will get free tickets to unlimited rides. Enchanted Kingdom, in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, the country's first and only world-class theme park, has seven theme zones and over 23 world-class rides and attractions. General Admission Day Passes are P600, Child Admission Day Passes, P420; and Senior Citizens Day Passes, P480. For more information, log on to www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.

Up ahead: more trials for Binay

By Norman Bordadora and Tarra V. Quismundo

AN ARREST WARRANT FOR MAKATI MAYOR Jejomar Binay may be issued by the Sandiganbayan Monday.

Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Godofredo Legaspi, chair of the Sandiganbayan third division, said they would issue a warrant of arrest for the mayor if they find probable cause to prosecute him for graft in connection with alleged purchases of multi-million-pesos worth of overpriced furniture for city hall from 1999 to 2001.

But in a press conference Wednesday, Binay expressed confidence his arrest warrant was not imminent as he had petitioned the antigraft court to suspend proceedings on the case against him since he had a pending motion for a reinvestigation in the Office of the Ombudsman.

Legaspi said that after the Sandiganbayan raffled off cases to the five divisions of the antigraft body, they were reviewing information filed by the Ombudsman. He said they might be able to establish probable cause for the issuance of the warrant by Monday.

Unresolved

Binay said that with his motion, "the action of Sandiganbayan on the case should be suspended."

In his motion, Binay asked the Sandiganbayan to defer action on the graft case against him, his wife Elenita, several city officials and private individuals, citing his unresolved pleading before the Office of the Ombudsman seeking a review of the case.

The Ombudsman has also charged Binay's wife with graft for the alleged P110 million overprice of furniture and fixtures.

Elenita was mayor of Makati when the purchases were made.

The case was elevated by the Ombudsman to the Sandiganbayan, based on a complaint against the Binays by Roberto Brillante, former Makati vice mayor and a long-time Binay foe.

Brillante was also behind the administrative case that caused the suspension of Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and the city's 16 councilors last week. He alleged City Hall had ghost employees on its payroll.

Binay secured a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals that lifted his suspension. Mercado got the same reprieve yesterday from the appellate court.

The filing of graft raps against Binay, the head of the United Opposition, followed the Ombudsman's order of preventive suspension issued to Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad.

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after PBA
IYAKAN SA LUNES!
Philippine Idol
Results Night
LUNES
after Global Shockers
ABC
TATLONG ARAW NA 'WAG NA 'WAG KANG BIBITAW!

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush OKs 1,126-km Mexico border wall

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH signed election-year legislation on Thursday to build 1,126 km (700 miles) of fencing along the US-Mexican border to combat illegal immigration, prompting a strong protest from Mexico.

Republicans hoped the legislation would give them a boost as they try to head off a strong Democratic attempt to take control of the US Congress in Nov. 7 elections.

"We have a responsibility to secure our borders. We take this responsibility seriously," Bush said in a signing ceremony at the White House.

But Mexican President-elect Felipe Calderon said in Ottawa after meeting Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper that he deplored the move because "the fence doesn't resolve anything" and will cause more Mexican deaths on the border.

"Humanity committed a grave mistake in building the Berlin Wall. I'm sure that the United States is committing a grave mistake in building this fence," Calderon said.

Bush had long opposed supporting a bill that was limited to border enforcement, spending months in a failed attempt to persuade Congress to back a comprehensive measure that would include a guest-worker program for illegal immigrants.

The Senate had approved a measure he preferred, but Republicans in charge of the US House of Representatives insisted on border enforcement only, feeling election-year heat from Americans upset about the impact of illegal immigration in their states.

Democrats called the legislation a political stunt, said it risked straining relations with Mexico and accused Republicans of lax border enforcement. *Reuters*

No Pinochet gold stash in HK, says bank

SANTIAGO, CHILE—DOCUMENTS allegedly showing former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet stashed a huge gold fortune at the HSBC bank in Hong Kong are forgeries, the Chilean office of the bank said Thursday.

No accounts in Pinochet's name have been found in the bank, HSBC said in a statement.

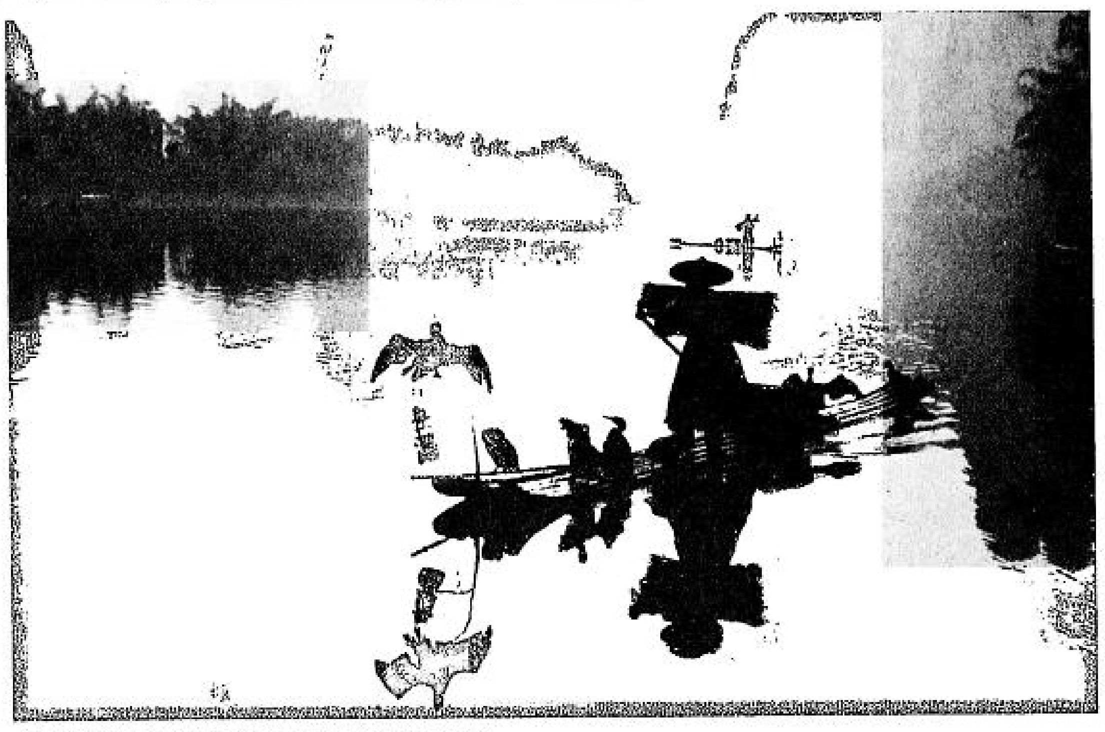
The local unit of London-based banking group HSBC Holdings PLC said it carefully reviewed the documents presented by the Chilean State Defense Council, a government agency in charge of defending government interests.

The documents it reviewed suggest that the bank is holding $160 million (euro126 million) in Hong Kong under Pinochet's name.

"HSBC is in a position to confirm that those documents are false," the statement said.

It added that the bank will continue to cooperate with the government.

The surprise announcement by the bank came hours after the Santiago Court of Appeals cleared the way for a probe into reports that Pinochet had stashed nine tons of gold equivalent to millions of dollars in the bank. *AP*



CORMORANTS GET ALL THE FUN
Undated photo shows fishermen and their fish-catching birds, cormorants, working at sunrise on the Li River near Xingping, China. AP

Russia rejects Europe's UN draft resolution on Iran

MOSCOW—RUSSIA REJECTED Thursday a draft UN resolution put forward by European powers targeting Iran's nuclear program, saying the proposed measures did not advance objectives agreed on earlier by major world powers.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the resolution put forward Wednesday by Britain, France and Germany would not be effective in containing Iran's program and contradicted the consensus reached by the five permanent UN Security Council members and Germany.

"I think that in this respect the draft resolution that has been presented clearly does not further the objectives that the six powers agreed on earlier," Lavrov was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency.

Those goals, Lavrov said, included preventing proliferation of "sensitive technology" while also keeping open "all necessary channels of communication with Iran."

One of Lavrov's top deputies, Sergei Kislyak, said separately that Russia was "carefully studying" the draft resolution. However, a "long negotiating process is required" to find a mutually acceptable decision. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Reward for Africa's good leaders

LONDON—A self-made Sudanese millionaire is offering African politicians an annual prize worth $5 million if they avoid being seduced by power and corruption. Mo Ibrahim said on Thursday the prize would be presented to former leaders who had demonstrated excellence in government. "Nothing, simply nothing, is more important to African development than good governance. Today, I am launching a foundation which aims to change fundamentally the choices faced by African leaders," said Ibrahim. South Africa's elder statesman Nelson Mandela, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, former US President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz welcomed the initiative. The $5 million prize will be paid over 10 years and the winners will then receive $200,000 a year for life. *Reuters*

Muhammad cartoons publishers cleared

COPENHAGEN—A Danish court on Thursday acquitted the bosses of the Jyllands-Posten newspaper who had been sued by Muslim groups for printing 12 cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in September 2005. The judge at Aarhus district court ruled the cartoons were neither offensive nor were they intended to denigrate Muslims, according to court papers. "Even if the text accompanying the pictures could be read as being derogatory and mocking, the cartoons are not offensive," the court said. Seven Danish Muslim groups launched legal proceedings in March against Jyllands-Posten's editor, Carsten Juste, and cultural affairs editor Flemming Rose. They accused the paper of publishing text and cartoons which were "offensive and insulting" to the prophet. The plaintifs said the satirical caricatures "attacked believers' honor because they portrayed the prophet as warlike and criminal and made a clear link between Muhammad, war and terrorism." The groups brought their case citing Denmark's blasphemy and racism laws. *AFP*

Spouting Aussie Muslim cleric defiant

SYDNEY—Australia's most senior Muslim cleric refused to resign Friday over his likening women without head scarves to "uncovered meat," saying he would only quit once the world was "clean of the White House." As Prime Minister John Howard, a key US ally, called for the Muslim community to act or risk a long-term stain on its image, Sheikh Taj Aldin al-Hilali was defiant over his comments that scantily-clad women invite rape. After Friday prayers at his mosque in Sydney, the controversial Egyptian-born cleric was quizzed by a pack of news reporters over whether he would quit. "After we clean the world of the White House first," Hilali responded, as supporters cheered and applauded loudly the remarks. Several Australian politicians and some members of the Islamic community have called for Hilali's resignation, but he still enjoys grass roots support from his followers. *AFP*

Largest US casualties in Iraq

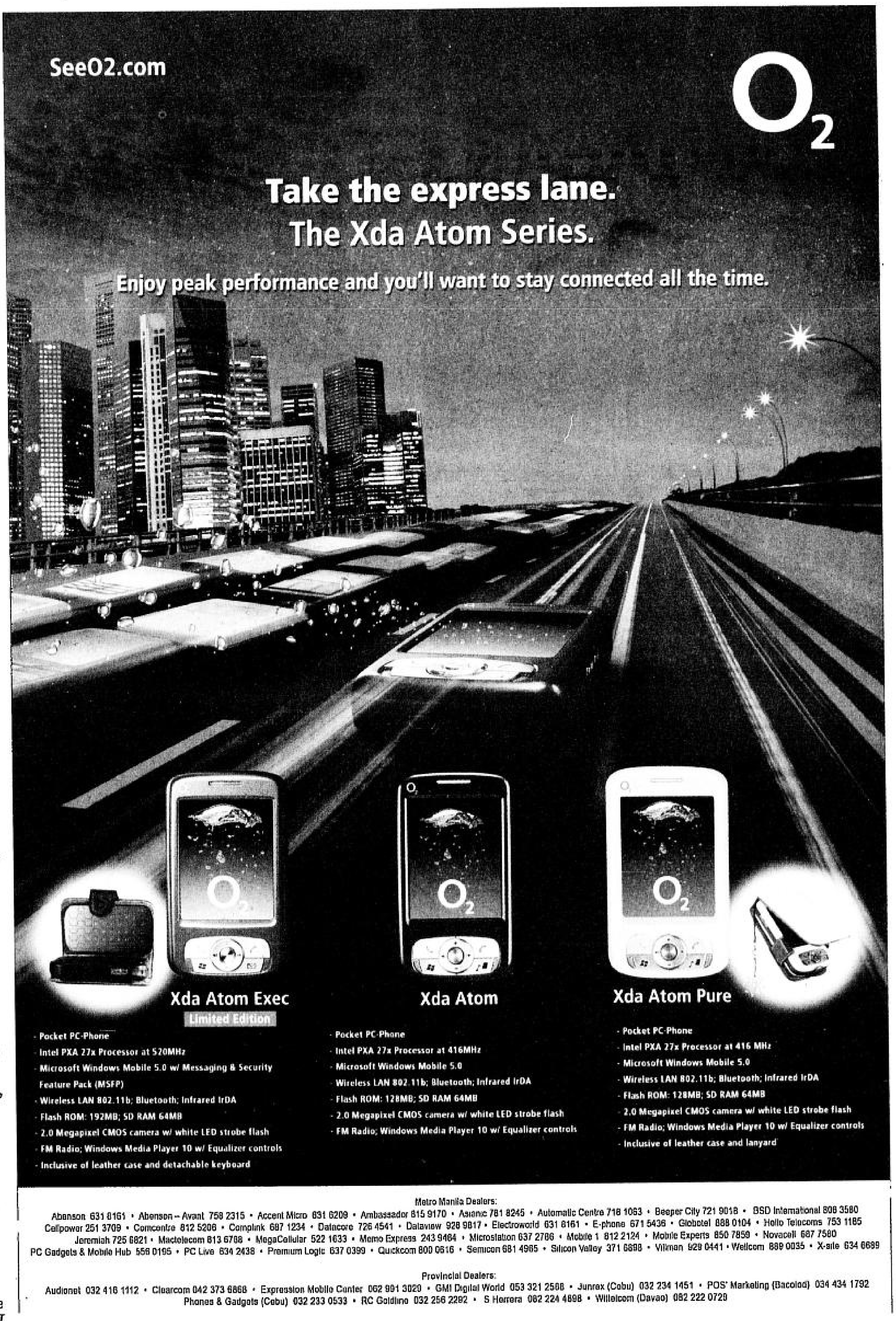
BAGHDAD—The number of US troops killed in Iraq hit its highest monthly toll in a year on Thursday, as American soldiers scoured war-torn Baghdad for a kidnapped comrade. The news that four US marines and a sailor were killed Wednesday came after US President George W. Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki insisted their plan to pacify the country was on track. The deaths brought the number of GIs killed in the first three and a half weeks of the month to 96—more than at any time since October 2005—as US troops faced tough fighting in several regions. *AFP*

Coup leader warns Thaksin not to return

BANGKOK—The leader of last month's coup again warned ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra Friday not to try to return home, one day after admitting that graft probes against him had made little headway. "We have to be consulted first if former prime minister Thaksin wants to return to Thailand," General Sonthi Boonyaratglin told reporters. The remarks echoed comments he made in a newspaper interview published Thursday, when he admitted investigators had yet to turn up solid evidence to support corruption charges against Thaksin. Sonthi has repeatedly justified the military's Sept. 19 takeover by claiming that rampant corruption during Thaksin's five years in office had undermined democracy. But he said in The Nation newspaper Thursday that "it will be difficult to implicate him" in major corruption cases. The remarks came amid growing criticism of the junta and rumors that Thaksin might try to return to Thailand from London, where he has lived in exile since shortly after the coup. *AFP*

Chinese corruption inquiry intensifies

BEIJING—A widening Chinese anticorruption investigation is taking aim at Beijing's party leaders, a sign that President Hu Jintao intends to continue removing officials he considers insufficiently loyal, people told about the leadership's planning said. Some 300 Communist Party investigators have been examining property deals and procurement practices in the capital city since at least late September and have uncovered suspicious dealings that implicate top Chinese leaders, the people said. Among those seen as likely targets of the inquiry are Jia Qinglin, a member of the nine-member Politburo Standing Committee and a former party secretary of Beijing, as well as the current Beijing party secretary, Liu Qi, who is a regular member of the Politburo. If the investigation results in the removal of one or both of the men, it would make the housecleaning the most sweeping since the shake up after the 1989 protests. *NYT*



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- Flash ROM: 128MB; SD RAM 64MB
- 2.0 Megapixel CMOS camera w/ white LED strobe flash
- FM Radio; Windows Media Player 10 w/ Equalizer controls

Xda Atom Pure
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- Intel PXA 27x Processor at 416 MHz
- Microsoft Windows Mobile 5.0
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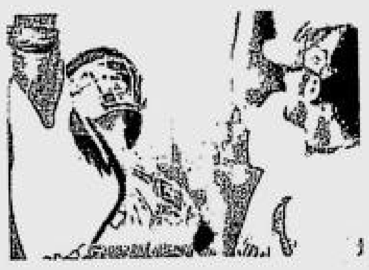
- **Little** David shines/A25



Miñoza six off pace after a 74

FRANKIE Miñoza, still within striking distance

HYOGO, JAPAN—FILIPINO STAR FRANKIE Miñoza tumbled to a two-over-par 74 Friday and fell six shots off the pace halfway through the ABC Championship at the ABC Golf Club course here.

Counting his first-round 67, Miñoza pooled a 138 and lagged behind new leader Azuma Yano, who was at 135 following a 68.

Shrugging off jet lag, Yano followed his 67 with a round highlighted by an eagle on the 15th hole, in addition to three birdies against a bogey, for a one-stroke lead over Katsumune Imai.

Yano, whose only title in his Japan Tour career came at the Asahi Ryokuken Yomiuri Memorial Open in November las year, birdied the fifth and seventh before holing a 10-footer on the par-5 15th, where he hit a 5-wood from 250 yards to set up his eagle.

He added a birdie on the 17th but saw his lead cut to one stroke with a bogey on the final hole.

"I'm extremely satisfied with my score over the first two days," said Yano, who is playing in Hyogo Prefecture with jet lag after finishing in 43rd place last weekend in the Funai Classic, a US PGA event in Florida.

Imai, a two-time winner on the tour, carded eight birdies and two bogeys in a round of 66 for a 136 total in the Y120,000,000 (about P50 million) event.

First-round leader Y.E. Yang had a 71 and dropped into third, a further stroke back, followed by Hisayuki Sasaki (67) at 138. *Kyodo*

Tipon gives RP pugs lone gold in Finland

BANTAMWEIGHT JOAN TIPON SAVED THE day for Team Philippines with a masterful 21-7 conquest of Canada's Isho Shiba in the finals as the Filipinos settled for a single gold medal in the Tammer Cup International Boxing Championships in Tampere, Finland.

Tipon, banking on his nimble footwork and hit-and-run tactic, frustrated the taller Shiba to make up for the losses suffered by compatriots Violito Payla and Genebert Basadre in other final bouts.

Light-flyweight Payla yielded to the rapid-punching Pal Bedak of Hungary, 30-16, while lightweight Basadre faded in the homestretch and lost by countback to France's Jean Gomis.

Basadre was ahead by six points in the fourth and final round but was unable to fend off the attacking Gomis, who forced an 18-18 count and went on to win the gold when the tiebreak was applied.

Team Philippines finished fourth overall with a 1-2-2 gold-silver-bronze tally. France won the overall title with five golds, while Australia and Hungary shared second with two golds each.

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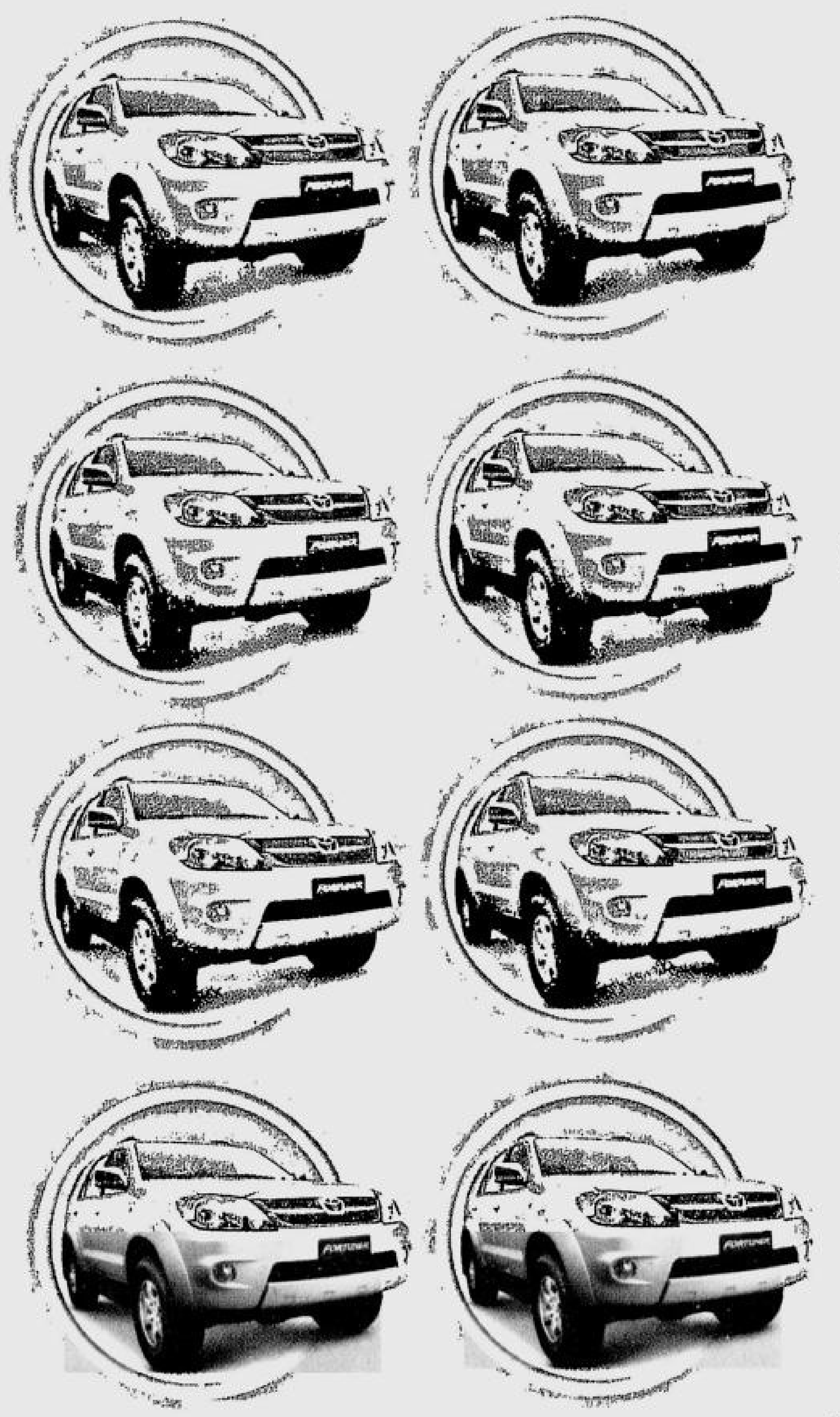

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Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon stun foes

DEFENDING CHAMPION TAGAYTAY CITY AND favorite Misamis Occidental suffered losses in the second round of the 2006 National Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championships Friday at the Atrium of the Limketkai Mall in Cagayan de Oro.

With top board player Grandmaster Joey Antonio taking a rest due to sinusitis, Tagaytay yielded to host Misamis Oriental A, 2.5-1.5.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre won his board one assignment, but his teammates failed to deliver as MisOc dropped a 3-1 decision to Bukidon-DAR.

Edmundo Gatus took over Antonio's place and settled for a draw with NM Rustom Tolentino. Jhonel Balquiin and Melvin Merelos provided the twin kill for Misamis Oriental of Gov. Oscar Moreno by beating Truman Hernaez and Ilann Perez on boards 2 and 4, respectively.

Allan Macalla scored Tagaytay's full point at the expense of Steven Yap on board 3.

Torre defeated National Master Jerome Balico in their top board clash, but Ferdinand Leysa, Julius Sinangote and Elias Banguiran retaliated with victories over Henry Roger Lopez, Jayson Salubre and Mardonio Fuentes, in that order, to give Bukidnon-DAR the victory.

Bukidnon-DAR also beat Surigao del Norte, 3-1, in Thursday's opener while MisOr "A" trounced Negros Occidental, 2.5-1.5.

Meanwhile, GMs Mark Paragua and Nelson Mariano's squad won their respective matches.

Paragua, 22, the country's top player, spearheaded Agusan del Sur "A" in a 4-0 whitewash of Agusan del Norte (Butuan) while Mariano led Zambales to a 3-1 triumph over Togoloan.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

RP batters get reprieve

LAST CHANCE AT BAT.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez yesterday gave the national baseball team up to tomorrow to produce funds for its Asian Games stint or be stricken off the RP delegation.

The Philippine Amateur Baseball Association failed to meet yesterday's deadline, set by the Asian Games Task Force, to raise the P2 million needed by the 22-man squad for the Asiad slated Dec. 1-15 in Doha, Qatar.

Ramirez, however, decided to give Paba president Hector Navasero the final extension as baseball is the only team sport on the Philippine roster of events.

As of yesterday, Navasero had received only P300,000 in pledges.

"We really want to include baseball but we don't have the money to spare," said Deputy Chef de Mission Ritchie Garcia. "So, the way I look at it, *wala na talaga*."

UNIVERSITY GAMES

FEU equals La Salle feat

By Cedelf P. Tupas and Christian Irl Tan
Inquirer Visayas

LA SALLE'S Alexie Laconico churns her way to a third gold medal in the 4x50-meter medley relay. ANDY ALVAREZ

BACOLOD CITY—THREE TEAM TItles fell on Far Eastern's coffers yesterday, even as San Beda and La Salle's tankers pulled away from their rivals on Day 5 of the National University Games here.

De La Salle also clinched its third team crown by ruling women's football via a five-game sweep, capped by a resounding 2-0 victory over Santo Tomas at the St. La Salle pitch.

Led by quadruple-gold winners Tessa Alcantara and Alexie Laconico, DLSU took the women's title with a 16-gold 9-silver 5-bronze output, followed by Silliman University (5-1-4).

Asean Age-Group veteran Chrizel Lagunday of John B. Lacson Colleges Foundation-Iloilo also grabbed her share of the limelight, claiming three individual golds in the two-day swimming hostilities.

Ferdinand Frigillina copped four golds and Edson Dinglasan contributed three more as San Beda retained the men's championship in runaway fashion, fishing out 22 golds, seven silvers and four bronzes, way ahead of De La Salle (4-5-4).

De La Salle's Enchong Dy helped avert a San Beda sweep by ruling four events. State U's Jeffrey Laguitao and Carlo Rodriguez of Holy Cross also won one gold each.

Despite a heart-breaking setback in men's athletics, the Tamaraws remained as the top entry in the week-long Games by winning the women's athletics crown, men's badminton and men's table tennis.

College of St. Benilde also seized three titles, ruling women's table tennis and posting a sweep of both events in lawn tennis.

Sharon Jizmundo spearheaded the Lady Tamaraws' onslaught with five golds in the athletics competition, which saw jumping specialist Marriz Cotoner, Zara dela Virgo, Jenny Agato claim two golds each.

Santo Tomas foiled an FEU sweep in athletics with quadruple-gold winner Jun Rey Bano, who also set two meet records, leading the way.

The Tigers' 4x400m relay squad, led by Bano, provided the crucial win as Santo Tomas finished with eight golds, six silvers and five bronzes. FEU copped 7 golds, 7 silvers and 2 bronzes.

The Lady Tamaraws won a total of 13 golds, 7 silvers and five bronzes, followed by UST, which posted a 5-6-6 tally.

In men's badminton, FEU downed local hope Riverside College , 2-1, for the crown after registering a similar 2-1 victory against Adamson in the semifinals.

RP golfers blown away in World Am first round

THE PHILIPPINES STRUGGLED IN A LATE, cold, windy afternoon flight and limped home with a 10-over-par 154 Thursday to trail leader Canada by 15 shots at the start of the men's World Amateur Golf Championships in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Jay Bayron dropped five strokes in the last three holes to settle for a 77, the same output of Michael Bibat in the competition also known as the Eisenhower Cup.

That wobbly start disappointed the Filipinos who came into the tournament hoping to atone for the RP ladies' joint 30th effort in the Espirito Santo Trophy last week.

And the RP men's squad could be heading for a poorer finish.

Marvin Dumandan, the spearhead of the squad backed by ICTSI, skied to an 82 and failed to count in the three-to-play, two-to-count format event.

The Philippines, which shared 23d place in the rain-shortened 2004 edition in Puerto Rico, lay in 41st place in a record field of 70, in a tie with Bermuda and Venezuela.

The Canadians took advantage of early teeoff times to fire a five-under-par 139 behind Richard Scott's 69 and Andrew Parr's 70. Canada stood two stroke in front of the Netherlands.

France shot a two-under 142 at the De Zalze course for solo third while the United States, chasing a fourth straight championship in this biennial event, carded a 143, in a tie with top Asian team Malaysia, Austria and South Africa.

Tales of the Cuyo and homeboys gone forever

By Percy D. Della

I WROTE WITH MIST IN MY EYES LAST night about teenage years lost to time.

About a band of basketball "brothers" still spoken in respectful tones around the old hometown.

Where are they now? People ask even today of the members of a sports-inspired fraternity called the CUYO.

Well, six members and the coach had gone on to that Big Shootout in the Sky, giving this piece a hook for All Saints' Day. But the poignancy of tales about the bunch makes the Cuyo worth remembering forever.

For those of you who were youngsters in the late '60s and early '70s, hop along if you want; might as well look back with me.

In every town then, there was a Cuyo. Remember?

Oh yes, try recalling the hometown hoops team that enthralled the townspeople with its razzmatazz—and a brand of play worth walking a mile for from the barrios on Saturday nights.

Not to be confused with the rosary of islands in Palawan, Cuyo stood for the Cuyapo United Youth Organization in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. An oft-repeated line about the town is that it's where not only rice but culture is cultivated and hell is raised, not necessarily in that order.

Cuyo is the story of farm boys who excelled in the game and respected it as a metaphor for survival.

Most endured the hook shots, jump shots, running shots, acrobatic shots, fast breaks, slow breaks, flying elbows, body checks and crushing weights thrown at them in a game and by life itself.

A few did not.

The small-town idols were tough. Their group was never a sanctuary for *santo santitos*. Once during a night of youthful indiscretion spiced by San Miguel, players and their admirers streamed into the town plaza in the dead of night and posed buck naked for the camera. Peace officers who happened to be team fans conveniently looked the other way.

But mischief gave way to a profound sense of social responsibility early on. The Cuyo led the get-out-and-vote-your-conscience drive, a gutsy move indeed in the perilous political clime before martial law. It was not uncommon for youthful members to stand vigil while ballots were counted in far-flung villages where bullets flew.

For the lasses of Cuyapo then, the Cuyo homeboys were heartthrobs sent from central casting. They were the closest things to Tirso Cruz III and Edgar Mortiz.

Says the opening line of the team anthem: "*Cuyo sagisag ng kabataan. Cuyo kasapi nito'y puro guapo.*"(Cuyo a symbol of youth with good looking members.)

On Saturday nights during the summer and Christmas holidays, crowds four-deep watched while the team ruled the local cage wars. If scouts from big-time Manila leagues were present then, they would have picked up a diamond or two in the rough from the Cuyo. One of them was the best cage contortionist I've seen and the smoothest glider to the goal ever.

COMMENTARY

He survived the hardcourt's battles, but not life's, and died a broken man. He was the best player not to play in the Micaa and the PBA.

Cuyo, although bathed in riceland glory, also signified a given in our earthly existence—that all good things must come to an end.

They did. Parity set in. A younger, taller and heftier team came along. The Cuyo's hoop dreams that once soared eventually plummeted back to terra firma.

Just like a whole country's majestic years in a sport we once dominated in Asia now remain only a memory—relegated to the distant past.

In a town in Nueva Ecija, long time ago, there was the Cuyo.

Proclaims the last line of the team anthem: "*Cuyo pa rin kami kahit kamiý nasa nitso.*" (We'll belong to the Cuyo until the grave.)

The Cuyo—where are they now?

Edgardo Domingo Dumandan, the greatest player not to play in the PBA, is dead.

Vicente Guerzon Jr. is an Air Force two-star general who presided over the Magdalo court martial proceedings. He retired recently.

Ariston Agustin, a mechanical engineer, works under contract in Vietnam.

Abelardo Ysmael is a tax preparer in Antioch, California.

Johnny Carambas, a former election registrar and high school teacher, is dead.

Boogie Casco was an agrarian court clerk; he, too, is dead.

Eddie Casco, studio photographer and hunter, is also dead.

Teddy Beltran Domingo, a former barangay captain, still resides in Distrito Cuatro, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija.

Lucilo Pasakdal Jr. retired as municipal assessor and now lives in Cabanatuan City.

Tony Olog, a retired sergeant in the Philippine Air Force, died only last week.

Romulo Corpus who retired from the United States Navy, is a resident of Oxnard, California.

Diosdado Dacquel, player, senior statesman and alternate coach, is private secretary to the mayor of Cuyapo.

Mel Gonzales and Raul "Abay" del Mundo were the rookies. Gonzales works in Manila as an aircraft engineer. Del Mundo is a farmer in Cuyapo.

Percy Domingo Della writes this commentary. He retired as a state government spokesman in Sacramento, California.

Original coaches Boy Robles and Lando Ramos are very much alive, Robles in Manila where he is recovering from a gall bladder operation, and Ramos, a former town councilor, in Cuyapo.

Lawyer Manuel D.Tamase, who coached the team till its disbandment, is dead.

Emmanuel Rosario, official scorer and resident jester, was the first Cuyo to join his Creator. He was knifed to death at age 23 on Sept. 6, 1972. He died waiting for a visa to work in the United States as a medical technologist.

Jose Bernardo Yango was a Cuyo wannabe but was too young to play for the team then. JB went on to become a collegiate star, national team standout and PBA star. He is serving his last term as member of the Nueva Ecija provincial board.

Comments to: pd_della@hotmail.com

SPORTSWATCH

Celebrity boxers in 'Bakbakan' Round 2

ACTOR CESAR MONTANO HEADS THE LIST OF CELEBRITIES SEEING ACtion in the Manila Broadcasting Company's "Bakbakan '06" at 4 p.m. on Nov. 10 at the Star City Activity Center, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Montano will slug it out with professional boxer Charlie Balena, while others clash with their fellow celebrities—Polo Ravales vs Justin de Leon; Christian Vasquez vs John Hall; and Rommel Montano vs Emilio Garcia. The first Bakbakan '06', held in August, figured in the news when the Montano brothers figured in a melee with model Andrew Wolffe. Cesar Montano challenged Wolffe to a match after the model defeated Cesar's brother Rommel. Other bouts will feature Jury Noda versus Jun Alba in the main event, and Dondon Jimenea against Efren Huesca in the supporting bout.

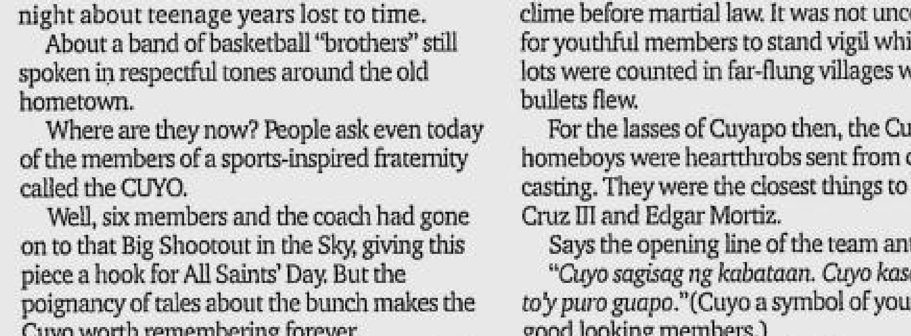
PCAP Stagfighter of the Year up today

THE STAGFIGHTER OF THE YEAR OF THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (PCAP) will be known today when the Grand Championship 5-stag derby gets going at the Makati Coliseum with more than 80 fights and with B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. Rainier Kau of Ilocos Norte (GCM 127 Fort Ilocandia), who rose into prominence after winning the 2003 National Bakbakan 8-stag derby, leads the Stagfighter race along with Jat Datu (Datu Puti) with 22 points each. Boy Marzo (BMRR Sabongworld) is in second place with 20.5 points. Rey Briones and Gov. Tony Kho (TRB Masbate), Honey Yu (Princess Bernice) and Flood of Gold Wings entry share third with 19.5 apiece.

Clean-Up derby today at SJC

A HUNDRED FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN THE CLEAN-UP 4-STAG DERBY which gets under way at the San Juan Coliseum today with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Action starts at 1 p.m., said hosts TJ Marquez, Boy Torres and Sam Mendoza who put up a guaranteed prize of P400,000. The hosts also staged the recent 256-entry Philippine Open 6-stag derby recently, where small-time breeder Oca Bolante won a Toyota Vios for being the fastest-win champion. Majority of today's participants come from the Calabarzon provinces as well as Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Pangasinan. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-5665.

TOP TEAM: Members of Archipelago Tennis Club pose for posterity after ruling the recent Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day Team Tennis Tournament in Metro Manila. From left, club president Paulino Pe, Philip Chua, Terence Tanlimco, Tyrone Co, Robert de Jesus, Preciouse Yu, Anthony Tan, club VP Vicente Co, Jun Sian and Alfonso Ong.



HEAD-TURNER: Louie Camus pushes his Lola T70 Replica to fourth place in Race 2.

Sison, Binamira split vintage car honors

SERIES LEADER MON SISON SPLIT honors with Juny Binamira in the recent 2006 San Mig Coffee Vintage Sports Car Cup at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Sison, who topped the last race in Subic, uncorked another big show in the six-lap race to take the checkered flag in 10 minutes and 30.686 seconds in this event organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit and the Manila Sports Car Club.

But it didn't come easy. Sison battled tooth and nail with Binamira at the outset and had to push his Porsche 911 to the fastest laptime of 2:10.825 in the fourth lap to pull away. He finished 14.772 seconds in front of Binamira, who clocked 10:45.458.

Romeo Mercado bagged third place while Dr. Luigi Lira and Dr. Sandy Coronel, driving Lira's Kharmann Ghia, wound up fourth and fifth, respectively.

Binamira, in a jeep-type Super 7, upstaged Sison in the afternoon race by quickly grabbing the lead at the start and holding on to it for good. He wrapped up the win in 11:05.552 minutes, 13 seconds ahead of Sison.

Binamira posted the day's fastest time of 2:05.674.

Lito Ignacio, in a Toyota Celica, took third place honors with Louie Camus, driving the crowd-favorite Lola T70 Replica, finishing fourth ahead of Romeo Mercado.

For race details, log on to www.batangasracingcircuit.com

Veterans lead Silver Cup bid of Titans

By Jasmine W. Payo

WILL THE ADDITION OF VETERANS IN A young team click?

Coach Jerry Codiñera hopes it does when his beefed up TeleTech Titans see action in the PBL Silver Cup starting Nov. 11.

"We really need veteran players," said Codiñera at the Scoop sa Kamayan session yesterday. "The veterans, unlike collegiate players, quickly know how to react. Having them also gives us flexibility when it comes to our starting unit."

Consultant Robert Sison said recruitment was among the Titans' focus during the off-season.

"We started with the recruitment of players from champion team Montaña," he noted.

Sison, who steered the Jewels' title run last year, brought in former wards Al Magpayo, Ariel Capus, Francis Mercado and Paul Guerrero after Montaña took a leave of absence from the league this conference.

Other acquisitions from champion squads include point guard Kim Valenzuela from Magnolia, Eugene Tan from Rain or Shine and Robert Labagala, who will debut with the Titans after wrapping up his stint with Champions League titlist University of the East.

Black Storm

Codiñera also revealed that the Titans will introduce an interesting new system called the Black Storm.

"There will be no hand signals," said Codiñera, the former Purefoods star named among the 25 all-time best players in the pro league. "It's a quick transition from offense to defense. It will depend on ball movement, it's a read and react system."

TeleTech vice president and general manager Maulik Parekh, board representative Andrew Araneta and team manager Benjie Castillo believe that the Titans will do better than their four-win debut last conference.

"Our goal this year is to go all the way to the top," said Parekh. "The reason that we're very confident is that we added talents in our team."

Completing the Titans seasoned roster are Alfie Grijaldo, Mel Latoreno, Don Villamin, Jay-Arr Estrada, Jose Magdadaro Jr. and Axel Doruelo.

"Having a veteran lineup makes our job easier," said Codiñera. "And with our new system, we'll try not to be predictable."

Montaña leaves Cebu gasping in overtime

DAVAO CITY—MONTAÑA PAWNSHOP OUTlasted Osmeña-Cebu in overtime to score an 86-80 victory in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament Thursday night before a sellout crowd at the Almendras gym here.

Randy Panerio and Ronald Lamocha combined for 10 of the jewelers' 16 points in the extra period to propel businessman Armando Quibod's squad to its second win in five games.

Former senator John Osmeña's Cebu team dropped to 0-2.

It was a see-saw battle from the start, with the lead changing hands a record 31 times and the score tying 17 times before Montaña finally broke through in overtime.

Dondon Ayson waxed hot in the early goings to keep the Jewelers in the game.

Montaña still led 55-54 going into the payoff period behind the hot hands of Marlon Legaspi and James Zablan.

The Cebuanos limited Ayson to two minutes in overtime after regulation ended at 70-all.

The scores:

MONTAÑA 86—Ayson 19, Panerio 19, Lamocha 9, Atablanco 9, Abanes 8, Bonifacio 7, Bajenting 5, Cachuela 4, Gonzaga 4, Quibod 2, Jatico 0, Dawal 0, Lopez 0.

OSMEÑA-CEBU 80—Legaspi 20, Zablan 15, Moody 11, De GUia 10, Marquez 7, Hardin 7, Canceran 3, Reguerra 3, Espiritu 2, Abenalosa 2, Sludsod 0, De Castro 0.

Quarters: 14-14, 34-35, 54-53, 70-70 (reg.), 86-80 (OT)

Little David shines

Cardinals rally, zero in on title

CATCHER Yadier Molina (left) and Albert Pujols celebrate St. Louis' victory. AFP

ST. LOUIS—WITH SOME HELP FROM A SOGGY FIELD and a big hit by little David Eckstein, the St. Louis Cardinals took control of the World Series with a wild 5-4 comeback win over the Detroit Tigers on Thursday.

Eckstein's tiebreaking double glanced off the glove of a diving Craig Monroe in the eighth inning, and the Cardinals capitalized on Detroit's sloppy defense to take a 3-1 Series lead and move within one win of their first championship in 24 years.

"He's the toughest guy I've ever seen in a uniform," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said, praising his scrappy shortstop.

Jeff Weaver can nail it down on Friday when he pitches against rookie Justin Verlander at Busch Stadium. Each lost his first start in this Series.

"The fans here are unbelievable. They come out every single night supporting us and it would be a real honor to do something for them," Eckstein said.

The 5-foot-7 (1.7-meter) Eckstein hit three doubles and a single as St. Louis overcame an early 3-0 deficit to close in on its 10th World Series title. The last team to squander a 3-1 Series lead, however, was the 1985 Cardinals against Kansas City.

After Wednesday's rainout, only the second World Series washout in 20 years, showers were expected again on Thursday. But the heavy stuff stayed away on a 53-degree night, and much of the back-and-forth game was played in a light mist.

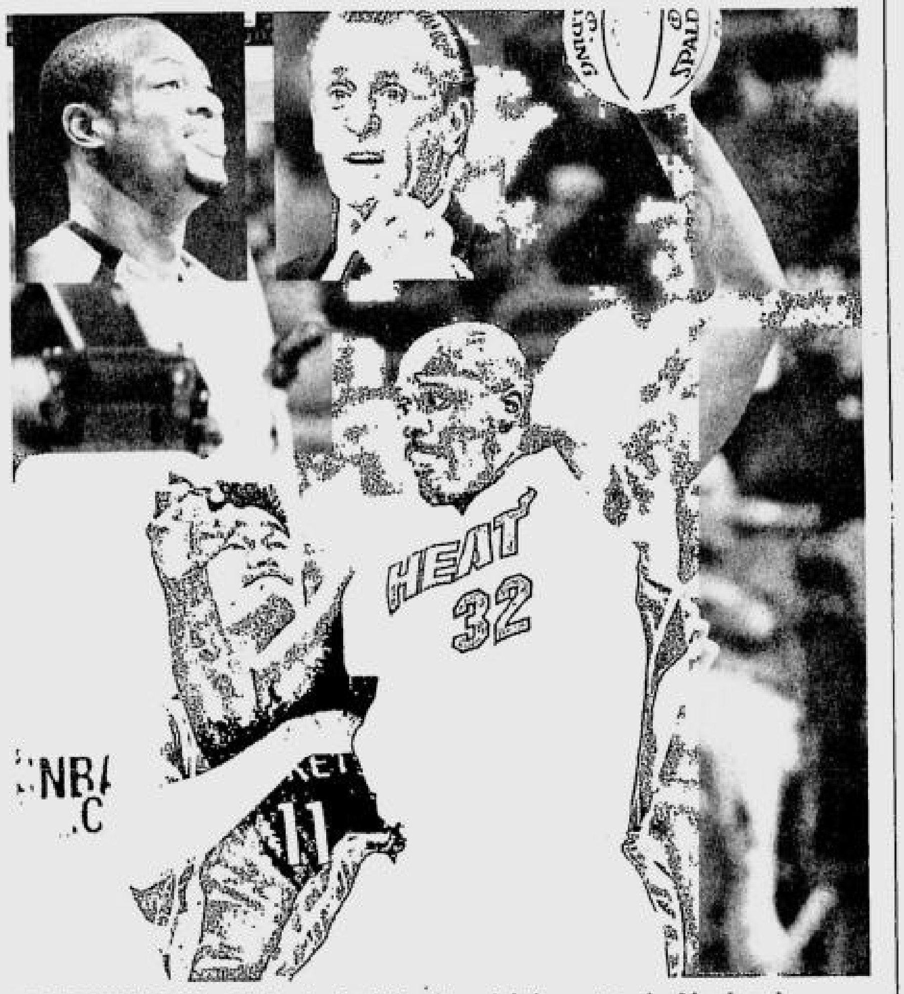
The mist got heavier in the sixth, however, and the Tigers began to struggle with the elements.

With St. Louis trailing 3-2 in the seventh, Eckstein hit a drive to right-center that Curtis Granderson appeared to have in his sights before he slipped to the slick turf, kicking up a huge divot. The ball fell for an easy double.

Pinch-hitter So Taguchi dropped down a sacrifice bunt, and reliever Fernando Rodney threw the ball way over the head of Placido Polanco covering at first base, allowing Eckstein to score the tying run.

It was the fourth error by a Tigers pitcher in four games, a record for one pitching staff in the World Series. *AP*

Same old Heat back to defend NBA crown



SHAQUILLE O'Neal is back, Pat Riley (top right) wants to be No. 1 and Dwayne Wade holds the key for the defending champions Miami Heat. AP/REUTERS

NEW YORK—ONCE THE SOUTH Beach parties had dwindled and Pat Riley committed to coming back, the dapper Miami coach got to work on his plan for keeping the Heat atop the NBA.

When Riley surveyed his roster, there was Shaquille O'Neal, who looked every one of his 34 years while laboring for a pedestrian 13.7 points per game in the NBA finals. In key reserve roles, he saw 38-year-old Gary Payton and 36-year-old Alonzo Mourning.

And Riley decided, despite his aging stars, to do practically nothing.

So back come the same old Miami Heat, who are convinced they're still good enough to get by LeBron James and Big Ben Wallace in the East, and then the Dallas Mavericks, San Antonio Spurs, Phoenix Suns or whomever else survives in the West.

Sure, the Heat have flaws. But they're also the only team with Dwyane Wade, a bona fide superstar who's already proven he's capable of hiding or overcoming his team's shortcomings all by himself.

"However the prognosticators out there are evaluating our team based on what happened last year," Riley said recently, "I would not want to be a team on the other side of us in a seven-game series, because this is a rise-to-the-occasion type of team.

"There's something about them, when it's the right time, and it gets hot and it gets real competitive, that they're formidable. I think they showed that."

So when the NBA's new microfiber composite Spalding ball—no, it's not leather anymore—gets tossed up on Halloween night next Tuesday in Miami to open the NBA season against the Chicago Bulls, you can bet O'Neal will want to tip it to Wade. As long as it's in his hands, the Heat might still be the best in a NBA that lacks a dominant team.

"That guy is pretty good. I mean really, really, really good," Charlotte Hornets assistant Darrell Walker said. "He's getting to the point, and I'm telling you I love MJ, but we're going to have to start putting the Jordan rules on him. He's a pretty special player."

There are plenty of those.

Kobe Bryant beat out Allen Iverson and LeBron to win a thrilling scoring race last season, while Steve Nash won a second straight MVP award as recent rules changes allowed offensive stars to shine.

Wade stands out as the brightest of all after what he did in the finals, turning the Heat's 2-0 deficit against Dallas into a six-game victory in a Flash—Shaq's nickname for him—and earning that highest of NBA compliments: Comparisons to Michael Jordan.

Foreign-flavored Raptors

GLOUCHKOV AP

In Toronto, it's been 21 years since Georgi Glouchkov, the "Balkan Banger," became the first foreign-born player in the NBA when then-general manager Jerry Colangelo brought him to the Phoenix Suns.

The Glouchkov experiment didn't work in 1985, but the gap between international and NBA basketball has closed considerably since then. Now Jerry's son, Bryan, is bringing a whole new level of worldliness to the Toronto Raptors.

Bryan Colangelo drafted a European with the No. 1 pick and hired a European executive in a senior role—both firsts in the NBA. Over 80 foreign-born players now play in the NBA, including a league-high six in Toronto, the league's only non-US city.

American All-Star forward Chris Bosh remains Toronto's best player, but Colangelo has gone global to give his team depth. And for good reason—he says international players have the skills and fundamentals that modern American players lack.

After Jerry Colangelo sold the Phoenix Suns, Toronto hired his son, who scoured the globe in overhauling a Toronto team that went 27-55 last season. Not a surprise from Bryan Colangelo, who was the Suns' general manager when Phoenix hired European-American coach Mike D'Antoni and acquired Canadian Steve Nash, Frenchman Boris Diaw and Brazilian Leandro Barbosa.

He spent Toronto's No. 1 pick on Italian forward Andrea Bargnani, traded for Slovenian center Rasho Nesterovic, and signed Spanish forward Jorge Garbajosa and Slovenian forward Uros Slokar.

He also signed American swingman Anthony Parker—considered the top player overseas. And Toronto already had Spanish point guard Jose Calderon and Senegal forward Pape Sow. *AP*

WBL: UST whips De La Salle-Lipa

DEFENDING COLLEGE CHAMPION UNIversity of Santo Tomas bounced back in the 19th Women's Basketball League recently by crushing De La Salle Lipa, 56-36, at the Xavier School sports complex.

Ateneo de Manila University downed St. Scholastica's College, 48-40, and Assumption College whipped University of the Philippines Los Baños, 46-31, in the other college games of the four-level tourney organized by the Milo BEST Center.

Poveda Learning Centre ripped De La Salle Zobel, 50-2, in the elementary contest.

In the high school developmental level, it was School of St. Anthony over JASMS, 34-22; Montessori Integrated School over Southville International School, 28-23; Poveda over St. James Academy, 19-17; St. Theresa's over Colegio de Sta. Rosa, 18-12; and Grace Christian over UPIS, 14-7.

The scores:

HS Developmental

POVEDA 19—Joson 6, Bautista 4, Policarpio 3, Lopa 2, Pineda 2, Viola 2, Alinea 0, Banaag 0, Castro 0, Ferrer 0, Magsanoc 0, Peña 0, Poblete 0, Spakowski 0, Yoingco 0

ST. JAMES 17—Supnet 9, Francisco 4, Nievera 4, Ang 0, Aquino 0, Arellano 0, Garcia 0, Ibong 0, Ignacio 0, Lachenal 0, Miraflor 0, Miranda 0, Oliveros 0, Padua 0, Vallestero 0

Halftime: 9-9

College

ATENEO 48—Puyod 12, Serina 10, Roderos 8, Velasco 6, Javier 5, Arnan 4, Tiu 2, Samonte 1, Gotamco 0, Goupil 0, Burdette 0, Gomendoza 0, Payoyo 0, Tiangco 0

ST. SCHOLASTICA 40—Mallada 12, Roque 12, Roxas 11, Causapin 2, Fajardo 2, Castañeda 1, Blando 0, Garcia 0, Jimenez 0, Li 0, Mangahis 0, Noriega 0, Pineda 0, Salayon 0, Villanueva 0

Halftime: 33-19

Sharapova gains; injury knocks Pierce out

SHARAPOVA AFP

LINZ, AUSTRIA—US OPEN champion Maria Sharapova reached the quarterfinals for the 13th time in 14 tournaments this year, beating Eleni Daniilidou of Greece, 7-5, 6-1, in the Generali Ladies on Thursday.

But 1999 Linz champ Mary Pierce had to be carried off the court on a stretcher after hurting her left knee in a fall while she was on the brink of beating Vera Zvonareva in the last match of the day.

Sharapova broke Daniilidou at 5-5 in the first set then cruised.

"I have played so much tennis lately that I felt a bit exhausted at the start of the match," she said. "But I settled down well after the first set."

Sharapova, who failed to reach the quarterfinals only at the French Open, will play fifth-seeded Ana Ivanovic in the next round.

Pierce led Zvonareva, 6-4, 6-5, had rallied from a break down in each set and missed three match points when she fell behind the baseline and had to retire.

The left knee injury was a cruel blow for the two-time Grand Slam champion, who was playing only her eighth tournament this year after right foot injuries.

In the quarterfinals, Zvonareva will meet third-seeded Patty Schnyder, who rallied to beat wild card Nathalie Dechy of France, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-3.

Schnyder, last year's runner-up, led 5-2 before losing the first set. In the second and third she converted all four of her break points.

Serbia's Ivanovic beat Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, 6-2, 6-2, and Samantha Stosur of Australia ousted Kremlin Cup winner, seventh-seeded Anna Chakvetadze, 6-4, 6-4. Stosur plays defending champion Nadia Petrova of Russia next.

Sixth-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia battled past Elena Vesnina of Russia, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2, and will face fourth-seeded teenager Nicole Vaidisova on Friday. *AP*

Federer advances

BASEL, SWITZERLAND—ROGER Federer won the final eight games to sweep out Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain, 6-2, 6-0, and reach the quarterfinals of the Swiss Indoors on Thursday.

Federer, trying to win his hometown tournament for the first time, extended his longest winning streak of the year to 21 matches.

"I'm playing unbelievable right now," Federer said. "To take control of the match the way I did today was surprising."

Meanwhile, second-seeded David Nalbandian and third-seeded Fernando Gonzalez both saved match points and won last-set tiebreakers to keep alive their qualifying bids for the eight-man Masters Cup next month.

Nalbandian saved a match point in edging Feliciano Lopez of Spain, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (7). Nalbandian can qualify for Shanghai and defend his Masters Cup title by reaching this week's final.

Gonzalez fought off six match points in the final tiebreaker to nip Mardy Fish, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (8). *AP*

SPORTS

MY GAMES

Manila sweeps b'minton titles

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANILA SWEPT THE DAY'S BADMINTON golds courtesy of prized find Marie Estela Helit as the host city made the Manila Youth Games national invitational truly its playground yesterday.

Helit, representing Legarda Elementary School, triumphed in the 15-under girls singles, doubles and mixed doubles at the San Andres Gym as the Big City athletes padded their medal haul to 49 golds, 34 silvers and 33 bronzes with only two days of action to go.

For all its might, however, Manila got shut out in baseball and softball at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

Rizal Technological University edged Manila, 2-1, for the 16-18 softball big league title, before the host fell to Rizal province, 2-1, in the 13-15 softball little league championship.

Rizal won the crown by beating Manila, Parañaque and Caloocan twice each. Manila won the silver with its 4-2 slate.

Nueva Ecija pulled off a surprise 3-2 win over heavy favorite Tanauan for the 13-15 softball big league title even as Muntinlupa bested Tanauan, 2-1, for the 11-12 little league baseball championship.

Helit first teamed up with Rochelle Dela Cruz to trounce Quezon City's Viaronthy Martinez and Carla Montes, 21-17, 21-17, for the girls doubles gold medal.

She then routed Gracille Joy Zamora of Candon City, 21-6, 21-4, to take the singles crown before joining hands with Steven Paul Rabanal to dispose of Danica Rose Besa and Elmo Sese VII of Parañaque, 21-17, 20-22, 21-1, for the mixed doubles title.

Rabanal ran away with the boys' singles gold after a 21-16, 21-18, 21-14 win over Anthony Kyle Gonzales of Muntinlupa.

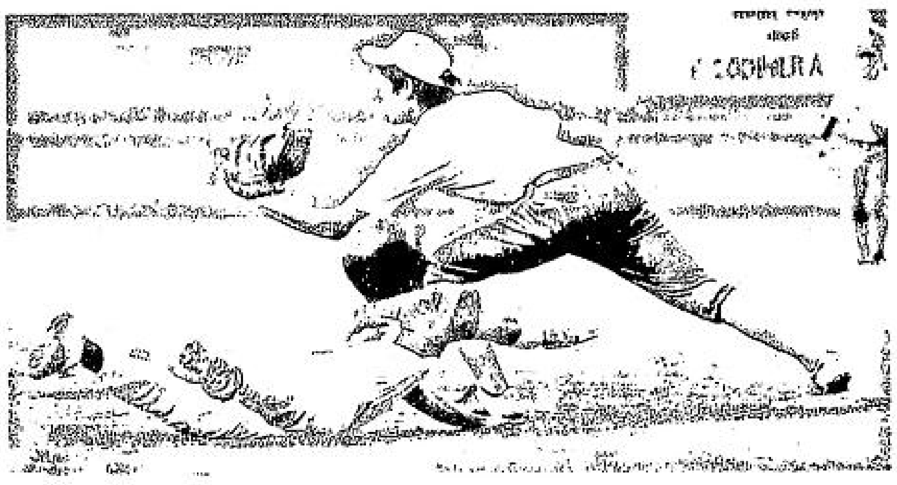
Counting Thursday's late results, Manila is way ahead in the medal standings, with Quezon City huffing at second place with an 18-20-23 tally.

Laguna follows at 10-6-8, Baguio City (9-15-10), Candon City (7-11-7), Muntinlupa (5-11-13) and Taguig City (5-4-7).

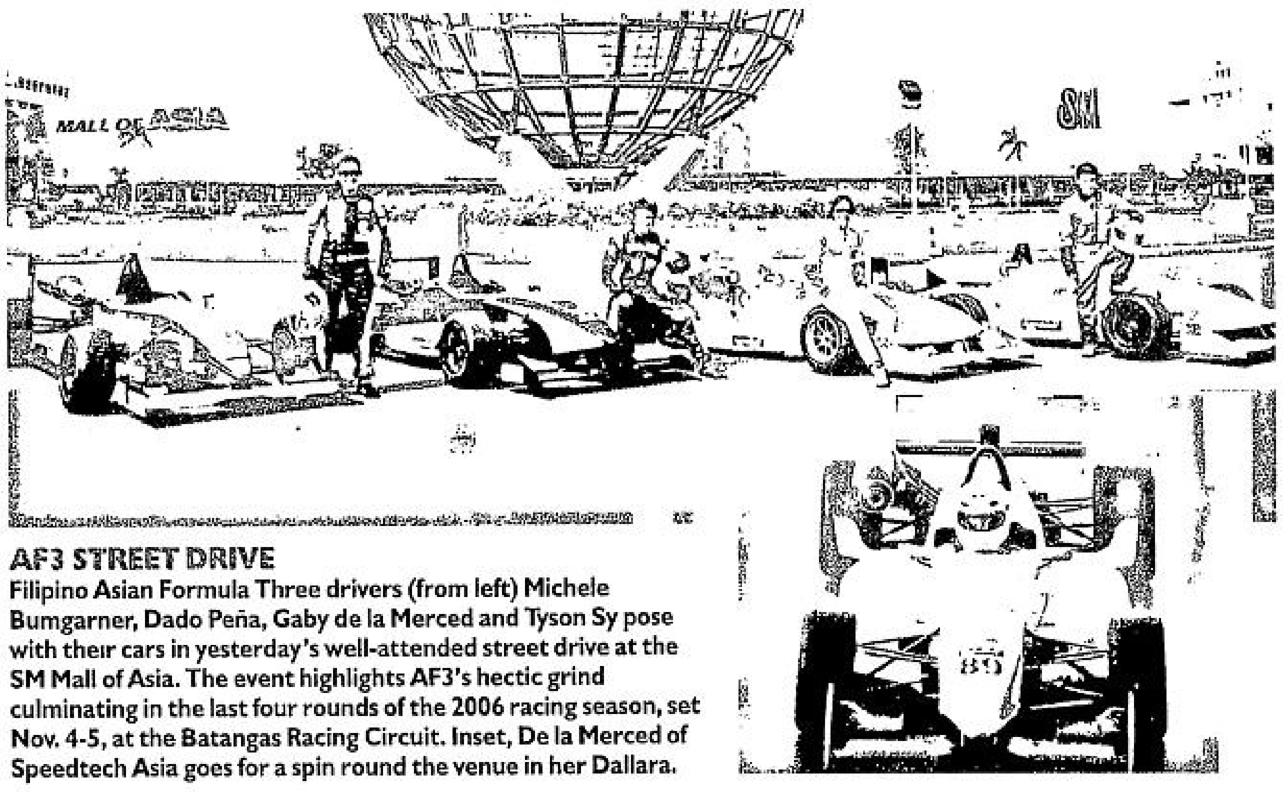
Rounding out the top 10 in the six-event meet are Parañaque with 4-4-11, Valenzuela City (3-2-3) and Cavite City (1-2-6).

Meanwhile, Justin Tabunda closed in on the Most Outstanding Athlete award with five golds for Manila in track and field.

The 15-year-old Justin, son of former marathon champion Justo Tabunda, ruled the 800m, 1,500m, 3,000m and shared the gold in the 4x400m and 4x100m relays in the 13-15 category.



TANAUAN City's Christian Magnaye fails to beat the throw to Nueva Ecija first baseman Jay Vizcarra in the third inning of the 13-14 softball gold-medal game. RYAN LIM



AF3 STREET DRIVE

Filipino Asian Formula Three drivers (from left) Michele Bumgarner, Dado Peña, Gaby de la Merced and Tyson Sy pose with their cars in yesterday's well-attended street drive at the SM Mall of Asia. The event highlights AF3's hectic grind culminating in the last four rounds of the 2006 racing season, set Nov. 4-5, at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Inset, De la Merced of Speedtech Asia goes for a spin round the venue in her Dallara.

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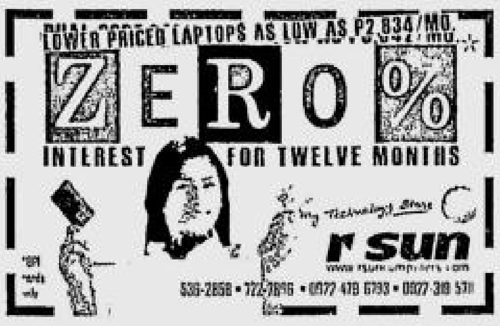

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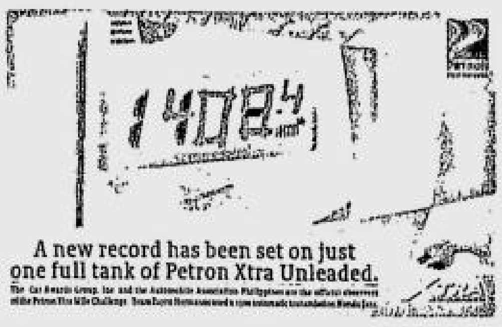


A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Imports jumped 15.3% in August to $4.89B

Buoyed by increased demand for electronics

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S IMPORTS HIT $4.89 BILLION IN AUGUST, up 15.3 percent from a year ago, as electronics companies bought more foreign-made inputs in anticipation of a sustained growth in global demand for consumer electronics in the remaining months of the year and 2007.

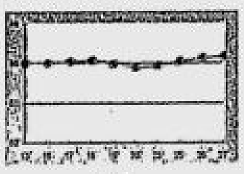
The amount of imports in August brought the total for the first eight months of the year to $33.86 billion, a growth of 10.2 percent from last year.

The country's balance of trade, the difference between exports and imports, was a deficit of $621 million in August alone, and $2.9 billion in the first eight months. The January-August trade gap was 32 percent lower year-on-year.

"The decline in the trade gap benefits us because a lower trade deficit results

IMPORTS/ B2

INDICATORS



P49.820 = $1 As of 5 p.m., Oct. 27, 2006

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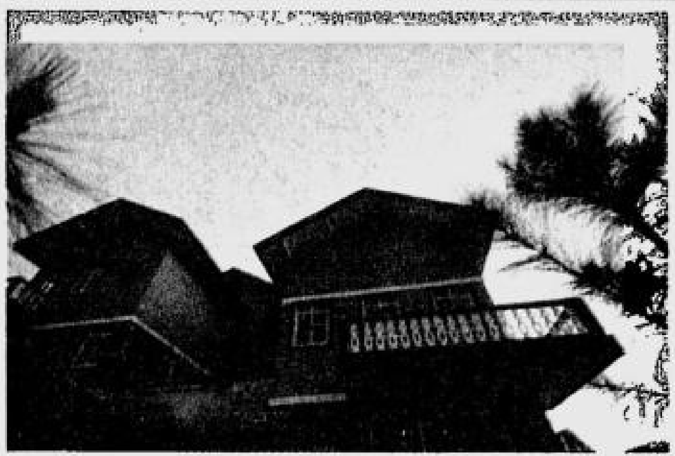

Photos by George Tapan

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OFWs account for half of Filinvest Land sales

Notes brisk sales of affordable housing units

By Daxim L. Lucas

OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) now account for up to half of Filinvest Land Inc.'s sales, and the trend will likely continue in the mid-term future, the company's head said yesterday.

As such, the property developer will continue to focus on serving the needs of this cash-rich niche, Filinvest Land president Joseph M. Yap told reporters.

"At present, between 40 and 50 percent of our sales are attributable to OFWs or their relatives here," he said. "Mostly, they buy our affordable housing and lower mid-level housing units."

Filinvest Land's experience with the OFW community echoes that of other property developers in the country, many of which are now counting on the rising affluence of overseas workers for their sales.

Other firms like blue chip Ayala Land Inc., Robinsons Land Corp. and Megaworld Corp. have gone to the extent of setting up sales offices abroad to better capture the OFW market.

Yap said he was unaware of the extent by which the rest of the real estate industry now depends on OFW buyers, but said that he expected Filinvest Land to continue counting on this sector for revenues.

"That's why we will continue to focus on our core business, which is affordable housing," he said.

Yap pointed out that OFW buyers were most interested in Filinvest Land's housing projects that sell from P750,000 to P3.5 million a unit.

The demand from OFWs is also contributing to the buoyancy of the local real estate market, which he predicted would continue its run-up for the "foreseeable future."

The confidence of the Gotianun-owned firm in the sector is underscored by statistics showing that more than two-thirds of Filipinos still do not own their own homes.

"Only 20 to 30 percent of the population have their own homes," he said.

Yap added that the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council also estimates a backlog of anywhere between 3.5 million and 4 million socialized and low-cost housing units in the country.

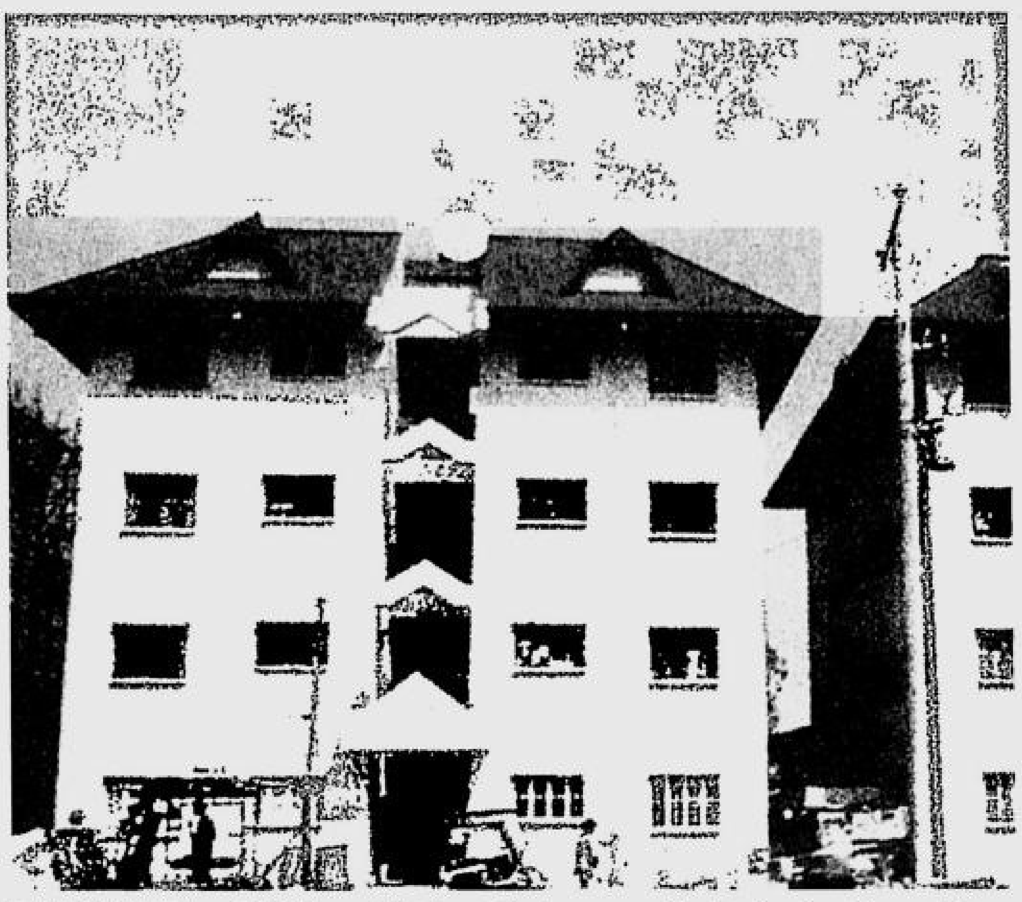
Meanwhile, it was recently reported that Filinvest Alabang Inc. increased its stake in Filinvest Land to roughly 37 percent from 10 percent after an asset-for-share swap deal.

Yesterday, Filinvest Land's stockholders approved an increase in its authorized capital to 41 billion shares from 16 billion to accommodate the issuance of shares to FAI and the conversion of 616 million shares to the company's parent firm, Filinvest Development Corp. (FDC).

After the conversion of debt into Filinvest Land shares and the completion of an asset-for-share swap, FDC will trim its holdings in the property developer to about 35 percent from 44 percent.

Filinvest Land earlier announced it was buying controlling interests in three key pieces of property for P12.3 billion that will allow it to tap into the high-growth mall and business process outsourcing sectors.

These property assets are PBCom Tower in Makati City, Festival Supermall and Northgate Cyberzone both in Muntinlupa City.



THE DEMAND from OFWs is contributing to the buoyancy of the local real estate market.

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS

METRO PACIFIC
thinking ahead

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION

All holders of shares of common stock of Metro Pacific Corporation (respectively, the "Shareholders" and "MPC") are hereby notified that on October 25, 2006, Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") filed a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. MPIC, which is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, intends to acquire up to 227,515,063 common shares of MPC.

The consideration for the acquisition of the common shares of MPC to be tendered (the "Subject Shares") is one (1) common share in MPIC (the "MPIC Shares"), plus three (3) warrants (the "Warrants") to purchase up to three (3) MPIC Shares for ₱ 1.00 per share, for every four (4) shares in MPC (after giving effect to the 1 for 20 reverse stock split approved by the SEC on August 23, 2006).

The Tender Offer shall commence on October 27, 2006, and end at 3:00 p.m. on November 28, 2006 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The closing or completion of the Tender Offer is conditional upon the approval by the PSE of the listing by way of introduction of the outstanding MPIC shares (including the shares to be issued pursuant to the Tender Offer) and Warrants and the listing of the underlying shares of the Warrants.

The Subject Shares are intended to be crossed on the PSE on December 8, 2006 (the "Cross Date") subject to PSE approval.

Should any of the business days during the period from October 27, 2006, the commencement of the Tender Offer Period and December 8, 2006, the Cross Date, inclusive, be officially declared a non-working holiday after the filing of the Tender Offer Report on October 25, 2006, the period shall be extended by the number of business days corresponding to those which were declared as non-working holidays.

MPIC intends to issue the MPIC Shares and Warrants as payment for the tendered and accepted Subject Shares on December 13, 2006. The said MPIC Shares and Warrants shall be made available by the Stock Transfer Agent for pick up by the tendering Shareholders after 9:00 a.m. on December 13, 2006 assuming the shares are crossed on the Cross Date.

Tendering Shareholders who hold stock certificates ("Scrip Shareholders") should submit within the Tender Offer Period their duly endorsed stock certificates, the duly accomplished Application and the following supporting documents:

	For Corporate Shareholders		For Individual Shareholders
1	Certified true copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the shareholder and latest amendment/s thereof.	1.	One (1) valid identification card containing the photo and specimen signature of the shareholder.
2.	A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form prescribed by MPIC setting forth resolutions of the tendering shareholder's Board of Directors authorizing the tender and sale of the Company's Subject Shares and designating the signatories for the purpose.	2.	For shareholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form prescribed by MPIC.
3.	A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary.	3.	A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the shareholder.
4.	MPC Minority Shareholders submitting share certificates issued prior to August 23, 2006 (the effective date of the MPC reverse stock split) must endorse the same share certificates and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate.	4.	MPC Minority Shareholders submitting share certificates issued prior to August 23, 2006 (the effective date of the MPC reverse stock split) must endorse the same share certificates and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate.
5	MPC Minority Shareholders who have lost their share certificates must submit a notarized Affidavit of Loss and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate.	5.	MPC Minority Shareholders who have lost their share certificates must submit a notarized Affidavit of Loss and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate.

Tendering Scrip Shareholders may submit their applications in any of the following ways:

1) Through pick-up, in which case the Tendering Shareholder should call the MPIC Tender Hotline toll-free telephone no. 1-800-10-888-0888 on or before November 24, 2006. The cost of courier services shall be borne by MPIC;

2) Delivery to ATR KimEng Securities, Inc. ("ATRKE"), 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No (02) 849-8888 (Contact Person: Ms. Nilaida S. Enriquez or Mr. Denis G Du).

For the convenience of Scrip Shareholders based in Visayas and Mindanao who opt to submit their Applications, the Subject Shares may be tendered by submitting the foregoing requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of ATRKE not later than November 21, 2006.

ATR KimEng Securities, Inc. Cebu Branch		ATR KimEng Securities, Inc. Davao Branch
Room 206, Cebu Holdings Center		Dr. #7 M T. Aquino Building
Cebu Business Park Cebu City		Cabaguio Avenue Corner Bolcan Street, Davao City
Telephone No.: (032) 231-1324		Telephone No.. (082) 224-2860
Contact Person: Cheryl M. Lim-Go		Contact Person: Miguel Luis R. Aquino

ATRKE will submit the share certificates for validation to Stock Transfer Services Inc, the stock transfer agent of MPC. Defective applications (*e.g.*, with discrepancy between the specimen signatures on file and the endorsement) must be corrected within the Tender Offer Period to avoid being rejected by MPIC. Hence, Shareholders are strongly urged against tendering at the last minute to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency in their application. Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone numbers in their respective application forms to allow ATRKE to inform them immediately of any deficiency in their applications.

Tendering Shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Scripless Shareholders") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their shares to ATRKE for receipt by ATRKE prior to 3:00 p.m. of November 28, 2006. ATRKE shall hold the tendered common shares only as custodian.

Tendering Shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by ATRKE before 3.00 p.m. of November 28, 2006.

Copies of SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by Shareholders from ATRKE at their addresses stated above.

For inquiries about MPIC or the Tender Offer, please dial
the MPIC Tender Hotline at toll-free telephone no. 1-800-10-888-0888.

Motorcycle firms raise alarm over counterfeit parts, bikes

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL MOTORCYCLE MAKERS have expressed concern over the counterfeiting of spare parts and trademark violations, which they said could get worse if left unchecked.

Brigido Valmadrid, counsel for the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association, said in a briefing yesterday that there was a "growing indication" of rampant counterfeiting of products that resulted in significant revenue losses for legitimate firms.

Valmadrid added that another violation was the abuse of companies' trademarks to confuse buyers into thinking that copycat products were real.

He said infringement of the companies' intellectual property rights represented 5-7 percent of foregone revenues.

"This is still a new trend but it may increase if it goes unabated," he said.

Officials said MDPPA was embarking on an awareness campaign about the matter, in consonance with regional efforts of the Federation of Asian Motorcycle Industries and the Japan Automotive Manufacturers Association.

The six-member MDPPA includes four assemblers of Japanese-branded motorcycles like Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki and Suzuki.

The other two carry brands MCX and Motor Star.

In terms of sales, MDPPA president Rolando F. Cruz said the group had posted a 7-percent growth in the nine months ending September.

But Cruz said they do not expect to reach their growth target this year of 15.6 percent, which translates to the sale of 570,000 units by yearend.

"We may be able to sell only 520,000 units this year or an increase of only 5.5 percent from 493,000 in 2005," he said. "We are selling at a range of 42,000 to 45,000 units monthly."

Officials said that aside from the awareness campaign, offended firms were pursuing cases in the courts as well as with the quasi-judicial Intellectual Property Office.

Valmadrid, who is also with Honda Philippines Inc., said the company has had cases resolved favorably in court and that it hoped to achieve the same results with the remaining cases.

He said most of the cases involved the Honda trademark, and that counterfeit products were made locally as well as shipped in from abroad.

BIR offers tax compromise to Duty Free

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of INTERNAL REVenue has offered Duty Free Philippines a compromise settlement for the P1.4-billion tax liabilities of the latter, hoping to speed up resolution of the tax dispute and therefore boost revenue collection.

Nelson Aspe, director of the BIR's Makati region, said that under the compromise offer, Duty Free would be required to pay only the basic tax of P1.1 billion and the penalty of P300 million would be waived.

The P1.4 billion in alleged tax liabilities of Duty Free involved value-added tax and corporate income tax for 2003 and prior years, Aspe said.

Duty Free maintained that it should not be obliged to pay taxes because it is a government entity. Revenues generated by Duty Free is used partly to finance programs related to the promotion of tourism by the Department of Tourism, head agency of Duty Free.

The BIR, however, said that although Duty Free is a government-owned firm, it was not mandated to provide government services but only operated as a business that is profit-oriented. Duty Free should therefore pay taxes, the BIR said.

BUÑAG

The tax dispute is currently pending with the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA).

"Once they (Duty Free) pay the basic tax, we will immediately drop the case," Aspe told reporters yesterday at the sidelines of the launching of a tax-collection enhancement campaign in Pasay City.

But should Duty Free decline the compromise offer, then the BIR would pursue the case with the CTA. "If the BIR wins, then we will collect the entire P1.4 billion," Aspe said.

The BIR's Makati region covers the revenue districts of Parañaque, where Duty Free's office is located, Pasay, Las Piñas, Taguig and Pateros.

Last year, Duty Free gave P270 million to the BIR as payment to end the tax dispute. Although the BIR Makati region accepted the payment, the BIR's head office turned down Duty Free's offer.

Since the P270 million was already recorded as part of the BIR Makati region's collections last year, Aspe said, the amount would just have to be deducted from whatever they will collect from Duty Free, if ever the latter decides to accept the compromise offer or should the CTA rule in favor of the BIR.

Aspe said the compromise offered to Duty Free was in line with the BIR's ongoing abatement program, under which taxpayers with unpaid liabilities and pending tax-related civil cases could have their cases dropped if they agree to pay the basic amount of the back taxes.

The abatement program is aimed at hastening the resolution of tax disputes that have long been pending in courts.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag earlier described the program as "another step toward reducing the bureau's account receivables and pending assessments."

Imports jumped 15.3% in August to $4.89B

From page B1

in a higher economic growth," said Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority.

One way of computing gross domestic product (GDP), the common tool used to measure an economy's performance, is by summing up total consumption, investments, government spending, and the difference between exports and imports.

Arroyo said the surge in imports indicated optimism on the part of the country's exporters about business prospects in the coming months. A substantial part of the country's imports are raw materials, mostly electronics components, for the production of export items.

Documents from the National Statistics Office showed that electronics accounted for 44.6 percent or $2.18 billion of total imports in August, an increase of 12.9 percent from last year.

Arroyo noted a report by the US-based Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) that the bullish growth in demand for electronics so far seen this year was expected to continue in 2007 despite projections of a slowdown in the US economy next year.

SIA said Asian and European countries would join the United States next year in driving the growth in demand for consumer electronics, including laptop computers, MP3 players, cellular phones and television sets, Arroyo added.

Following electronics in the top imports for August were mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials with $944.16 million, up by 41.8 percent from a year ago. The growth was driven by higher spending for petroleum, gas and diesel oil, the NSO said.

Industrial machinery and equipment were the third-biggest imports at $176.75 million, up 3.6 percent year-on-year.

The Philippines' biggest source of imports for August was the United States, which accounted for $747.71 million. Japan followed with $591.98 million. Other top import sources were Saudi Arabia ($450.32), Taiwan ($417.34 million), Singapore ($377.95 million), Korea ($332.16 million), China ($309.38 million), Thailand ($209.32 million), Malaysia ($197.02) and Hong Kong ($174.24 million).

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 27, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.9	7	6.8	6.8	233,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	44.5	45	44	44.5	2,144,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63	61.5	62.5	1,498,900
China Banking Corp.	670	670	670	670	1,730
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.42	3,120,000
Equitable PCI Bank, Inc.	70.5	72.5	70.5	71.5	66,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	45	45.5	44.5	45.5	4,579,300
Philippine National Bank	36	36	35	35	35,000
Phil. Savings Bank	42	46	42	46	6,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.5	35,500
Security Bank Corp.	59	60.5	59	60.5	14,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45.5	50	45.5	50	21,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	481,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.54	150,000
Filipino Fund Inc	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1600	1600	1600	970
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.12	1.18	1.12	1.16	1,056,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	245	245	245	245	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2010	2010	2010	1,410
Ivantage Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.48	4,097,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	56	56	55	55.5	8,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp	53.5	54	52.5	53	542,300
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27	26.5	27	250,900
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	32	30.5	32	665,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.3	1,186,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.15	7,092,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	590,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	450,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.5	3.5	87,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	21.5	22	21.5	22	32,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	753,900
Rfm Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.06	686,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	278,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66.5	66	66.5	100,500
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74	73	74	735,800
Universal Robina Corp	20	20.25	20	20	2,152,800
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.56	0.58	0.55	0.56	50,540,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.8	2.9	688,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	2.14	2.4	2.1	2.4	473,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.9	6.2	5.9	6	94,158,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2.9	3	2.75	3	1,090,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	1,385,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.68	0.62	0.68	380,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.71	0.72	74,710,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.175	0.185	0.17	0.185	15,410,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	67,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	500	505	500	500	657,770
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,000,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	6.1	6.1	6	6	3,534,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.048	0.048	200,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.65	740,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.25	2,510,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	580,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	131,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	80,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	7,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	4,858,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.1	2,505,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2,270,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.88	1.9	1.84	1.84	1,160,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	1,315,000
Medco Holdings	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,250,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.39	0.44	0.39	0.44	1,080,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	30,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.82	1.86	1.74	1.74	7,666,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	243,400,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	0.92	0.95	0.92	0.95	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.81	0.82	0.78	0.78	1,900,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	6,560,000
SM Investments Corp.	282.5	282.5	280	280	190,540
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	251,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	3,600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.5	14,918,900
Belle Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	5,463,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.6	2	1.6	1.9	40,033,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.42	3,950,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.15	1,166,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.62	1.62	90,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.98	2	1.98	2	80,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	2	2.1	2	2.1	130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	11,810,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.36	1.26	1.36	6,307,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.06	0.0625	0.0575	0.0625	21,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.78	21,927,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	1,940,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.B	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.145	1,380,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	56,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	20,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.37	0.42	0.36	0.41	10,930,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.81	0.82	6,510,000
Megaworld Corp.	2.18	2.28	2.18	2.28	294,481,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	2.48	2.5	2.32	2.34	2,033,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.38	8,850,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,700,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.56	1.76	1.56	1.76	63,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	15	15.5	15	15.5	2,629,300
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.46	0.41	0.44	16,130,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	180,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	9	9	8.9	9	7,133,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.65	190,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	2,350,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	21	21.5	21	21.25	132,300
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	170,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.56	1.62	1.56	1.6	8,940,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1130	1130	1110	1120	29,790
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	5	5.3	5	5.2	9,764,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2295	2315	2295	2310	210,390
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Diversified Fin. Network	3	3	3	3	2,000
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	113,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.84	1.86	635,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.049	0.0525	0.049	0.05	12,300,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.0625	24,400,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.031	172,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	211,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	20	19.75	19.75	21,200
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	20,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	351,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	33	33	33	33	1,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.26	2.26	839,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.35	1,550,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	12,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.52	11,350,000
EDUCATION					
iPeople Inc	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	103,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.96	1.98	1,331,000
Paxys Inc.	14	14.5	14	14.25	687,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	1,059,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.4	1,839,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	92,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8	8	7.9	8	537,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.2	214,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	30,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	5,560,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	4,240,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	129,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	68,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	504,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.7	5,484,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.25	317,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	1,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.68	0.7	0.68	0.7	1,190,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.32	19,150,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	60,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	50,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	40,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10	85,300
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	105	104	105	9,450
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	20,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	19,300

CURRENCIES

October 27, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.787960	1.000000	49.8880
Japan	Yen	0.006656	0.008447	0.4214
United Kingdom	Pound	1.489954	1.890900	94.3332
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101267	0.128518	6.4115
Switzerland	Franc	0.628457	0.797575	39.7894
Canada	Dollar	0.702219	0.891186	44.4595
Singapore	Dollar	0.503168	0.638570	31.8570
Australia	Dollar	0.600442	0.762021	38.0157
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.090191	2.652661	132.3360
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210285	0.266873	13.3138
Brunei	Dollar	0.501566	0.636537	31.7556
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021296	0.027027	1.3483
UAE	Dirham	0.214539	0.272272	13.5831
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.269100	63.3129
Argentina	Peso	0.255004	0.323625	16.1450
Brazil	Real	0.369155	0.468494	23.3722
Denmark	Kroner	0.134182	0.170291	8.4955
India	Rupee	0.017437	0.022129	1.1040
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214937	0.272777	13.6083
Mexico	New Peso	0.073364	0.093106	4.6449
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515647	0.654407	32.6471
South Africa	Rand	0.105019	0.133280	6.6491
Korea	Won	0.000830	0.001053	0.0525
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023691	0.030066	1.4999

Metro Pacific Investments eyes infrastructure projects

Makati Med, Maynilad among targets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS CORP., THE new debt-free holding firm that will replace Metro Pacific Corp. of Hong Kong conglomerate First Pacific Co., is looking at strategic sectors that will contribute to social infrastructure such as hospitals, energy, water utilities and toll roads, MPC president Jose Ma. Lim said in a briefing yesterday.

Lim said MPIC would study a possible investment in Makati Medical Center since the hospital was planning to issue P500 million in convertible notes to interested investors sometime next month. The debt notes will be converted possibly into a 24- to 35-percent equity in MMC and make the holder of the notes the single biggest stockholder of the hospital.

About 10 percent of MMC is owned by the Fores and Araneta families while 5 percent is held by the San Miguel Corp. (SMC) group.

Lim also said that MPIC would look into the biodiesel or ethanol industry but noted that there were no immediate plans to invest in these sectors.

MPIC is also considering at a possible investment in water utilities through MPC's joint bid with the Consunjis for Maynilad Water Services Inc. Financial bids for the water utility will be opened on Nov. 7.

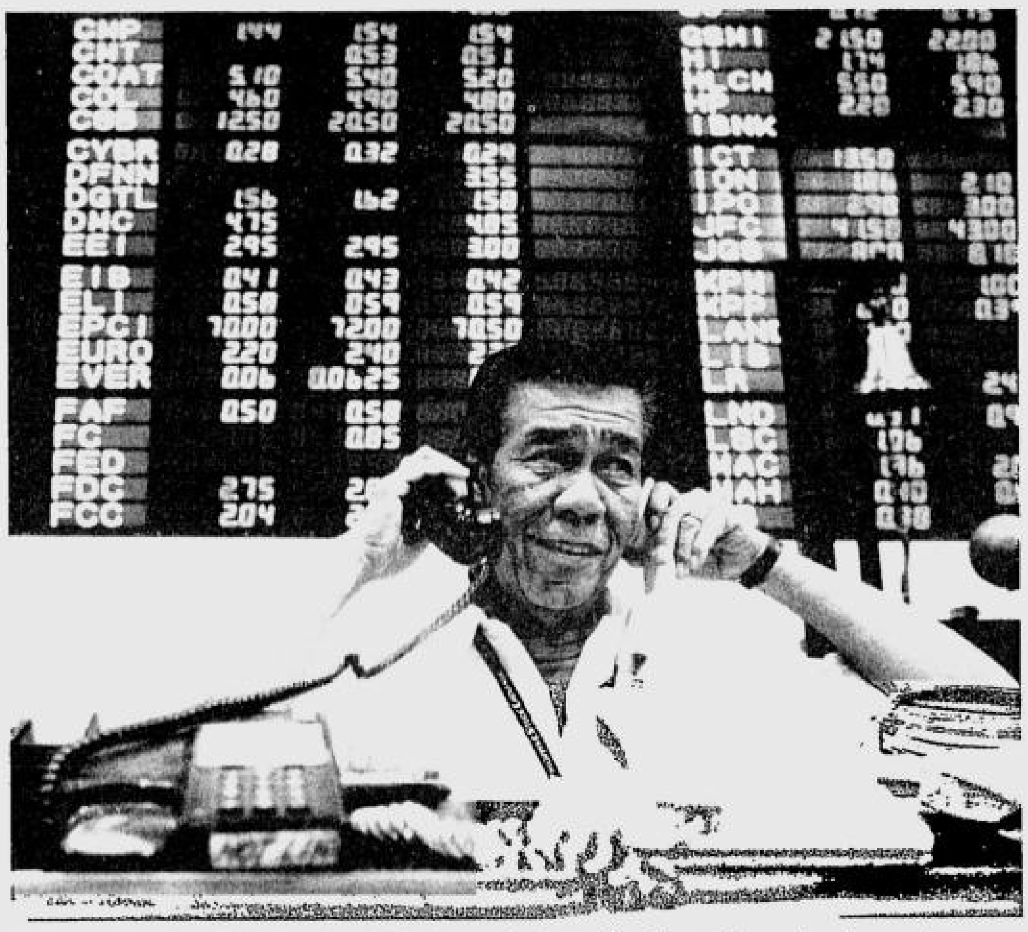
MPIC launched its tender offer yesterday to some 5,300 minority shareholders.

MPIC earlier secured approval from major MPC shareholders Metro Pacific Holdings Inc., Metro Pacific Resources Inc., Intalink and First Pacific International Ltd. to acquire 725.2 million common shares in MPC.

The shares will be acquired using a four-to-one share swap or one MPIC share for every four MPC common shares, documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed.

MPIC was founded as a corporate vehicle to acquire and accelerate the growth of MPC's former real-estate development subsidiary Landco. MPIC acquired 51 percent of the equity interest of MPC in Landco for P667.7 million.

To support the expansion of Landco's businesses, MPIC will raise P2 billion through a private placement of its shares in Metro Pacific Holdings Inc. or Metro Pacific Resources Inc.



A TRADER at the Philippine Stock Exchange Ayala trading floor takes orders from clients as investor interest in local stocks continued to push prices higher, with foreigners fueling the buying frenzy.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Stocks continue to climb

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.72-PERCENT higher yesterday, lifted by optimism that corporate earnings will remain strong as the economy sustains its growth over the year, dealers said.

This positive sentiment spilled into the currency market, with the peso jumping to its strongest level in nearly five years in early trading, they said.

The composite index added 19.43 points to 2,702.37 after trading between 2,703.01 and 2,682.94. The broader all-share index rose 12.41 to 1,663.65.

Gainers led losers 64 to 40 with 60 unchanged. Turnover totaled 2.67 billion shares worth P3.72 billion.

"Investors are now looking beyond the third-quarter corporate results. I think full-year earnings are also being priced in this early," said Harry Liu of Summit Securities.

"We've been expecting a pullback given the strong run-up in the past few days, but the momentum has not fizzled out," he added.

The government is confident the economy will expand between 5.5 percent and 6.1 percent this year, supported by brisk exports which grew 16.9 percent year-on-year to 30.958 billion dollars in the first eight months of 2006.

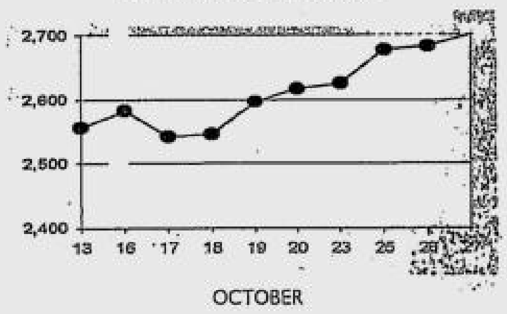
Property developer Megaworld Corp., the most actively traded stock, rose 10 centavos to P2.28.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) edged up P25 to P2,310.

Ayala Land Inc., which will also announce its quarterly results early next month, was up 50 centavos at P15.50.

AFP

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



OCTOBER

Net foreign stock purchases surge 108%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOREIGN INVESTORS' PURCHASES OF LOCAL stocks rose sharply in the first nine months, helped largely by improved sentiment due to government efforts to control the gaping budget shortfall.

From January to September, net foreign buying at the Philippine Stock Exchange increased by 108.8 percent to P42.2 billion from P20.2 billion in the same period last year, PSE president Francis Lim said yesterday.

Total foreign buying for the nine-month period rose 32 percent to P226.6 billion from P171.7 billion in the same period in 2005.

Total foreign selling, on the other hand, was up 22 percent to P184.4 billion from P151.5 billion in January to September last year.

The PSE noted in a monthly report issued in September that inflation continued to be tame as it slid to 5.7 percent from 6.3 percent in August. This was the lowest since the 5.4 percent recorded in August.

Robust revenue collections and restricted spending also allowed the national government to record a P14.3-billion budget surplus in August, bringing down the year-to-date deficit to P34.2 billion from P80.8 billion the previous year, the PSE said.

Average daily value turnover for the stock market—a measure of total trades in a day—improved 11.7 percent from January to September to P1.9 billion from P1.7 billion a year ago.

Total value turnover for the first nine months also grew 11.7 percent to P363.7 billion from P325.6 billion in 2005. The growth was fueled by gains in oil stocks (770 percent) and transportation issues (624 percent).

Total market capitalization or the value of all listed firms' capitalization grew 9.24 percent to P6.5 trillion at the end of September from P5.95 trillion at the end of December last year.

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Stopping prediabetes on its track

By Charles E. Buban

RECENT HEALTH statistics indicate that there are over three million (type 2) diabetics in the country and it's safe to estimate that there are just as much number of Filipinos who are undiagnosed or who doesn't know they are diabetic.

According to endocrinologist Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, professor at the University of the Philippines' College of Medicine, combining these two figures would give us an estimate of how many Filipinos are suffering from a prediabetic condition (borderline blood sugar level) or the stage before one may develop type 2 diabetes.

"Most of them show no symptoms, so they are mostly undiagnosed. If we won't do anything to stop or at least delay the progression of their current condition, they may be headed down the road to diabetes and would just be fulfilling the Department of Health prediction that by year 2025, there would be around 8.4 million Filipinos who would be diabetic," Abrahan reminds.

The doctor says the combination of obesity, inactivity and genetics is responsible. But most people with prediabetes aren't aware they have it and many people may be reluctant to get tested—and labeled—especially if they're feeling fine.

Lifesaver

But catching the condition before it turns into full-blown diabetes can be a lifesaver.

An international study called Diabetes Reduction Assessment with Medication (Dream) found that administering the drug rosiglitazone for three years, prevented 62 percent of prediabetics from progressing to diabetes and helped 70 percent of them get back to normal glucose levels.

The drug, marketed by GlaxoSmithKline as Avandia here, is already being prescribed for diabetics.

Lose ability

People with type 2 diabetes either lose the ability to respond to insulin, or their bodies no longer make enough of the hormone. Insulin helps the body use glucose as fuel, so without it sugar builds up in the bloodstream.

"Over time, especially if blood sugar levels are not kept in check, diabetes can boost a person's risk of heart disease and cause damage to the eyes, kidneys, nerves and other body tissues," Abrahan warns.

She adds that prediabetes is like the yellow light in a traffic signal that tells one to take caution, that is, one may choose to stop and prevent any accident that one may figure into should he or she attempts to beat the red light.

Prediabetes screening

Abrahan recommends that those aged 35 and above could benefit from a prediabetes screening, particularly obese individuals and those with other risk factors *(see boxed article)*.

And what should one do if diagnosed with prediabetes condition?

Abrahan, who is also director of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity, suggests they have to see a doctor twice a year and meet with a dietitian and an exercise physiologist to learn how to become fit and to eat thoughtfully.

Though Abrahan recommends diet and exercise for prevention, she also believes diabetes is too dangerous an epidemic to delay the use of any preventive drugs like rosiglitazone.

"In the absence of any intervention, millions more of Filipinos will turn diabetic in the next five years. Drugs like rosiglitazone, along with lifestyle changes, may stop these individuals from developing diabetes," says the doctor. She explains that while the drug is only being prescribed for diabetics at the moment, a doctor may, after examining the patient's medical history and current condition, do an off-label prescription for the drug.

Are you at risk?

SHOULD YOU BE EVALUATED FOR PREDIABETES, DR. MARY Anne Lim-Abrahan suggests the following self-inventory to determine in advance, if you would benefit from prediabetes testings.

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, particularly to more than one, you may be at risk.

- Do you have a family member with type 2 diabetes or heart disease?
- Are you overweight or obese?
- Are you 35 or older?
- Do you have high blood pressure?
- Do you have "apple-shaped" weight distribution, meaning your excess weight collects around your belly rather than your hips? You have this condition, if your waist is above 90 cm (35.5 inches) for males, or above 80 cm (31.5 inches) for females.
- (For women who've had children) Did you develop diabetes during pregnancy or have a baby who weighed more than eight pounds at birth?

Invitation to a program of excellence

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

CALLING ALL TALENTED HIGH SCHOOL students! Are you good in math? Do you want to improve your skills? How about representing our country in international competitions? Come and join the Program of Excellence in Mathematics (PEM).

In 1989, PEM was launched by Ateneo math professor Dr. Jose Marasigan and the Department of Science and Technology. Since 2000, the PEM has been solely handled by the Ateneo Math Department. The objective of PEM is to discover and encourage gifted high school students by training them in various math topics such as Number Theory, Combinatorics, Advanced Euclidean Geometry, Algorithms and Computing. The program also serves as a vehicle to prepare participants for the Asian Pacific Mathematical Olympiad (Apmo) and International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO).

The PEM has various activities for high school students and teachers, such as the Saturday training of students from public and private high schools. This year, the program will begin on Nov. 11 and will run for 14 Saturdays, from 9 to 11 a.m. A minimal fee will be collected to pay for the instructional materials.

Interested participants may contact Dr. Jumela Sarmiento at pem@math.admu.edu.ph or telefax 426-6125. Participants should preregister by Nov. 4. Due to limitations on facilities, we will be able to accept only 200 students. Students will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Aside from the regular classes in PEM, some participants will receive special training for the IMO and Apmo. In order to qualify for this special training, interested students are urged to submit solutions to as many of the following qualifying questions. Make your solutions as detailed as possible. The solutions must reach Dr. Sarmiento by Nov. 11. Send your solutions to Dr. Jumela Sarmiento, Ateneo de Manila University, Mathematics Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail your solutions to her at pem@math.admu.edu.ph. Visit the website www.math.admu.edu.ph/pem for more details.

Qualifying Questions

1. Find all right triangles with integer side-lengths such that their area and perimeter are equal.

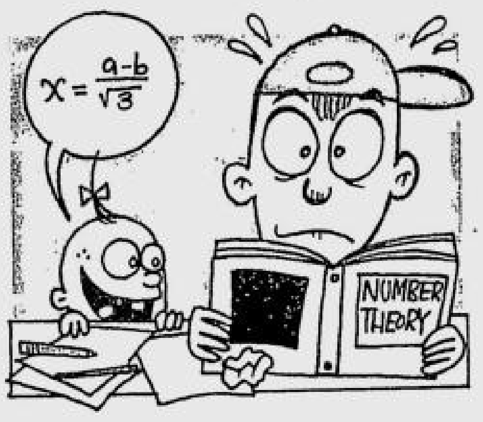
2. Solve in positive integers: $3(xy + yz + zx) = 4xyz$.

3. Let a, b, c be positive real numbers such that $abc = 1$. Prove that

$$(a-1+\frac{1}{b})(b-1+\frac{1}{c})(c-1+\frac{1}{a}) \leq 1.$$

4. Let ABC be a triangle inscribed in a circle of radius R, and let P be a point in the interior of ABC. Prove that

$$\frac{PA}{(BC)^2}+\frac{PB}{(CA)^2}+\frac{PC}{(AB)^2} \geq \frac{1}{R}.$$



Kidney cancer

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

LUIS P., A 59-YEAR-OLD HIGH school teacher, noticed that he has been gradually losing weight, around 20 lb over a six-month period. He attributed this to his diabetes and thought it might be a good thing that he was shedding some pounds. His urine then became brownish to almost tea-like in color for more than a week before he sought consultation. He thought his urine was just concentrated because he didn't drink enough water. He also had a vague but bothersome right-sided flank pain so he decided to see his doctor.

A thorough work-up was done including a CT (computerized tomography) scan using an intravenous dye to enhance imaging. Luis felt like the world caved in on him when his doctor told him he had kidney cancer, and based on the other laboratory examinations, it has already spread to his other organs.

Breast, colon, prostate and lung cancer are frequently written about, but we don't get to read or hear much about kidney cancer. It is not that infrequent though. The prevalence is one in 10,000 and many are dying due to this type of cancer yearly. If detected early, a complete cure can be obtained with surgery. Unfortunately, most cases are detected when the cancer has already spread outside the kidney.

Classic triad

The classic triad of sign and symptom consists of hematuria (blood in the urine), flank pain and an abdominal mass. This triad is however infrequently present when the patient first sees his doctor. So any component of the triad should always be given the benefit of a doubt and kidney cancer must be ruled out.

Other signs suggestive of kidney cancer may include:

- Abnormal urine color (dark, rusty, or brown)
- Enlargement of one testicle (usually the left, due to blockage of the left gonadal vein by tumor invasion)
- Weight loss of more than 10 percent of body weight without any weight-reducing intervention
- Pathologic fractures due to bone metastasis.

Most frequent type

In many instances, kidney cancer is diagnosed as an accidental finding on a medical imaging study of the abdomen (CT scan) done for an unrelated purpose. Occasionally, patients with kidney cancer, of which renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is the most frequent type, present with signs and symptoms not directly due to the mass, but due to secreted substances with hormonal activity. This is called the paraneoplastic phenomenon associated with renal cell carcinoma and includes vision abnormalities, pallor or plethora, excessive hair growth in females, constipation and cold intolerance.

The exact cause of kidney cancer is not known, but a hereditary factor is associated with it, particularly RCC. Smoking also greatly increases the risk for developing kidney cancers. Kidney disorders that require dialysis for treatment have also been reported to increase the risk for developing RCC.

Treatment

Surgery can be curative if the cancer is detected early. If the cancer is localized in the kidney, it can be cured in 90 percent of the time with surgery. The involved kidney is usually removed completely and so long as the remaining kidney is functioning normally, it should be enough to sustain the patient for life without requiring dialysis.

Surgical resection is no longer advised for patients with distant spread or metastases (such as to the bones, lungs, or brain). In such instances, the kidney cancer must be treated with chemotherapy and other treatments.

A promising drug for advanced or metastatic renal cell carcinoma is sunitinib (Sutent), which was approved by the United States FDA early this year. It has also been approved for cancer of the stomach and intestines called gastrointestinal stromal tumor. The drug deprives the tumor cells of the blood and nutrients needed to grow. Fortunately for patients with these types of cancer, sunitinib is already available here.

Other drugs such as alpha-interferon and interleukin-2 (IL-2) have also been reported to be modestly successful in reducing the growth of some renal cell carcinomas, including some with metastasis.

1 out of 4 Filipino suffer from constipation

By Tessa R. Salazar

ARE YOU READING THIS STORY while sitting in a toilet bowl? In fact, have you been reading this paper from cover to cover without a bit of an urge?

If so, then you must be one out of four Filipinos who suffer from constipation. Survey says one out of four Filipinos who have suffered constipation did so in the past 12 months at least once. This is also based on 15- to 64-year-old range. According to the survey, 84 percent of Filipinos do not seek treatment for constipation.

The 2000 Usage and Attitude Studies among 500 Filipino sufferers of constipation by pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim (manufacturer of the laxative Dulcolax) was revealed recently at a press conference.

Highest number

The local survey shows that the highest number of constipation sufferers was in the 30- to 39-year-old age bracket (30 percent of sufferers) and 50- to 64-year-old range (31 percent). The afflicted cut across socio demographics—the highest number being in the broad C market.

The study also indicates 43 percent of sufferers as "severely" to "very severely" constipated. Martina Gripp, director for consumer health care of Boehringer-Ingelheim Philippines, says that this was what the respondents rated among themselves on a scale ranging from "not affected" to "severely affected."

Severe type

Dr. Benjamin Gerardo A. Perez, MD, a fellow of the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology, describes the severe type of constipation could impair a person's life, as the sufferer would not be able to work or even go out of the house.

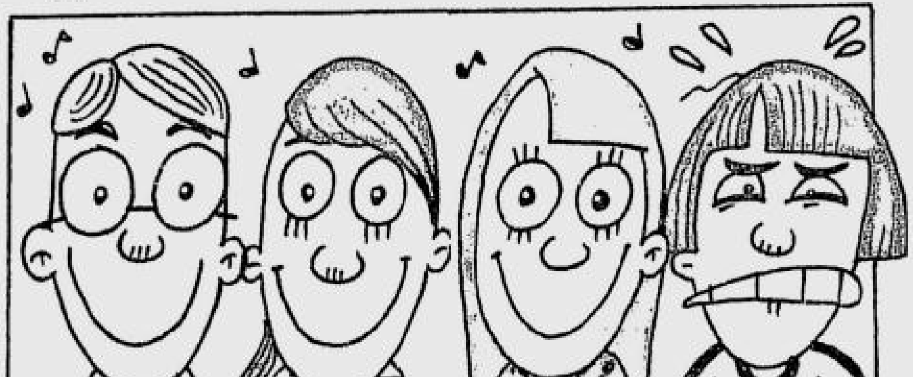
Experts define constipation as generally a condition where the person experiences fewer than three bowel movements a week, and who have to physically strain themselves severely in order to defecate. Constipated people also produce hard or lumpy stools.

Perez adds that the condition of constipation also depends on what the person feels. He explains that if a person's long-standing habit was to move his/her bowels once a week and he or she doesn't feel anything unusual, then that habit would be normal for that person.

Normal amount

On the normal amount of defecation, Perez says that ordinarily, one go at the toilet produces 100 to 200 grams a day. He adds that even if the person defecates only a small amount, but if he or she doesn't feel uneasy, then it might still be normal.

Constipation occurs when the normal muscle actions in the colon (large intestine) fail to work properly, and the waste material cannot be eliminated normally.



The Boehringer-Ingelheim omnibus surveys, which involved 14,000 respondents in the United States, South Korea, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Brazil and Italy, also reveal that 12 percent of the world's population suffered from constipation.

The highest incidences of constipation occurred in Asia Pacific (17 percent). No reasons were given why this region had the highest number.

Treatment options cited are bulk-forming laxatives, plant-derived laxatives, saline or osmotic laxatives, sugar and alcohol-based laxatives, contact laxatives and stool softeners. Major treatment options cited include surgery, which may need to be directed at a specific cause, such as rectal prolapse.

BSP sets prepaying trend

Private firms now hope to pre-terminate their debts

By Doris C. Dumlao

PRIVATE BORROWERS HAVE TAKEN their cue from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas decision to prepay this year a total of $1.2 billion worth of foreign debts ahead of maturity to take advantage of the sharply appreciating peso.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday told reporters the policy-making Monetary Board had approved the applications of some private companies to pre-terminate their external debts.

Tetangco said the sum of debts to be retired amounted to "a few hundred million dollars."

There are other pending applications, but Tetangco said it would be better to let the companies make their own announcements.

He said the increasing appetite to prepay external debts even among private borrowers was driven by their desire to generate interest savings.

The BSP approved the third tranche of prepayment worth $215 million of term loans, bringing to $1.17 billion the total amount of debts set to be retired ahead of maturity for this year.

Last April, the BSP pre-terminated $500 million worth of debts and another tranche worth $460 million was approved for retirement ahead of maturity earlier this month.

The third tranche of prepayment will be consummated next month.

The BSP's own prepayment of debts is part of its external debt management.

The use of strong foreign inflows to prepay debts indirectly helps exporters by tempering the peso's rise.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the national government would also like to prepay its debts, but it did not have the same flexibility as the BSP because most of the sovereign borrowings were in the form of bond floats.

But the BSP borrows mostly in the form of syndicated loans so there is leeway to pre-terminate without incurring penalties.

The BSP's move followed Indonesia's announcement that it would prepay $3.2 billion worth of its own obligations with the International Monetary Fund.

Cebu Pacific won't be going Oasis' way, yet

By Riza T. Olchondra

CEBU PACIFIC AIRWAYS INC. HAS NO plans in the near term to follow the trail of Oasis Airlines—a new budget carrier offering long-haul flights—as it has decided to wait and see whether the Hong Kong airlines' business strategy will take off.

"The market is growing enough to accommodate different types of services, [but] long-haul flights are not part of Cebu Pacific's business model," according to airline president and CEO Lance Gokongwei before Oasis' inaugural flight from Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok airport to London's Gatwick Airport on Thursday. "However, the entire LCC (low cost carrier) world is looking at that experiment to see if it will work."

Gokongwei told reporters that Cebu Pacific's fleet of Airbus 320s are technically unable to fly outside the Asia-Pacific region due to their four-hour flying radius. This limits the Philippine budget carrier's range to as far as North Asia, where the lucrative markets are China, Japan and South Korea.

Gokongwei also stressed that Cebu Pacific does not expect to lose out on anything by sticking to its short-haul flights—that offer more value for money to its target market—instead of offering long-haul flights to the United States or the United Kingdom.

"We are comfortable with our business model at this point," Gokongwei said.

Cebu Pacific is focused on budget fliers and first-time passengers travelling within the Philippines and to the rest of Asia-Pacific, such as Bangkok.

The airline recently offered P1,999 one-way for flights from Manila to Bangkok during the period covering Dec. 14, 2006 to Jan. 31, 2007.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Should you first investigate for paranormal activity?

By Tessa R. Salazar

HOMES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE abodes of comfort and security. But sometimes, unexplainable elements "shake things up."

Viewers of Discovery Channel's "A Haunting" watch every week numerous eyewitness accounts of American families, whose lives were adversely affected by houses "inhabited" by paranormal entities.

There are scenes of floating objects, cabinet doors suddenly swinging open, occupants physically harmed, constantly terrified and forever psychologically scarred from such violent hauntings.

Families who own haunted houses are often shown resorting to paranormal investigators, most of whom treat the cases from a scientific standpoint.

In the Philippines, there is also a group of paranormal investigators who treat such occurrences scientifically. And yes, homeowners have sought the group's services, much like how one would seek the recommendation of an engineer for possible structural weaknesses in a house.

Professional investigative service

Jaime T. Licauco, a scientific investigator of paranormal occurrences, leads the Paranormal Services Group servicing homeowners around the country. According to Licauco, professional investigative service is granted to those who would seek its help, on the condition the case be treated scientifically.

Licauco says that a property must be verified by the group as truly haunted, and there are times that the owners merely felt or imagined things, borne out of fear of the possibility that their property might be haunted. "If they want it investigated, then we will find out," he says.

Cleansing

If the house has been purchased and verified to be haunted, Licauco says the house can still be "cleansed" unless it is an "entry point of the elements." If that were the case, Licauco says, it will be difficult to cleanse the house. An "entry point," in paranormal lingo, is a gateway of elementals.

Licauco cites as an example a big company that occupied a prominent property in Makati (formerly occupied by a consul of another country). Two years after occupying the Makati property, the business went down. Licauco says that when the Paranormal Services investigators went there, they found many elementals, and the yard was an "entry point."

Licauco says he then advised the company to vacate the area. The company followed his advice and transferred despite still having three months in the contract to occupy the space. Soon after the transfer, the company's business went well.

According to him, attempting to close an "entry point" could be dangerous. The elementals, he says, would do everything to ruin the property and its occupants.

"It happened in Batangas when an entry point was cemented. The elements retaliated, so they had to remove the cement."

Licauco also tells of a high-end subdivision in Quezon City that had many of its residents abruptly coming down with serious illnesses, with some even dying from them. After an investigation by Licauco's group, it was found out that when the place was being bulldozed during development, many elements were affected. The elements were retaliating when the illnesses occurred.

Skepticism

Licauco says his group has handled a number of documented cases, and the only thing he's tired of is the skepticism constantly accompanying him.

"If they don't want to believe it, so be it. I'm not here to convince people." He also stresses that the only thing the group is after is the truth. We don't exaggerate, and we cannot ignore the spirit world."

Licauco says his clients are almost always individual homeowners, not real estate brokers. "Real estate brokers are still in the level of feng shui. Feng shui doesn't talk about spirits," he says.

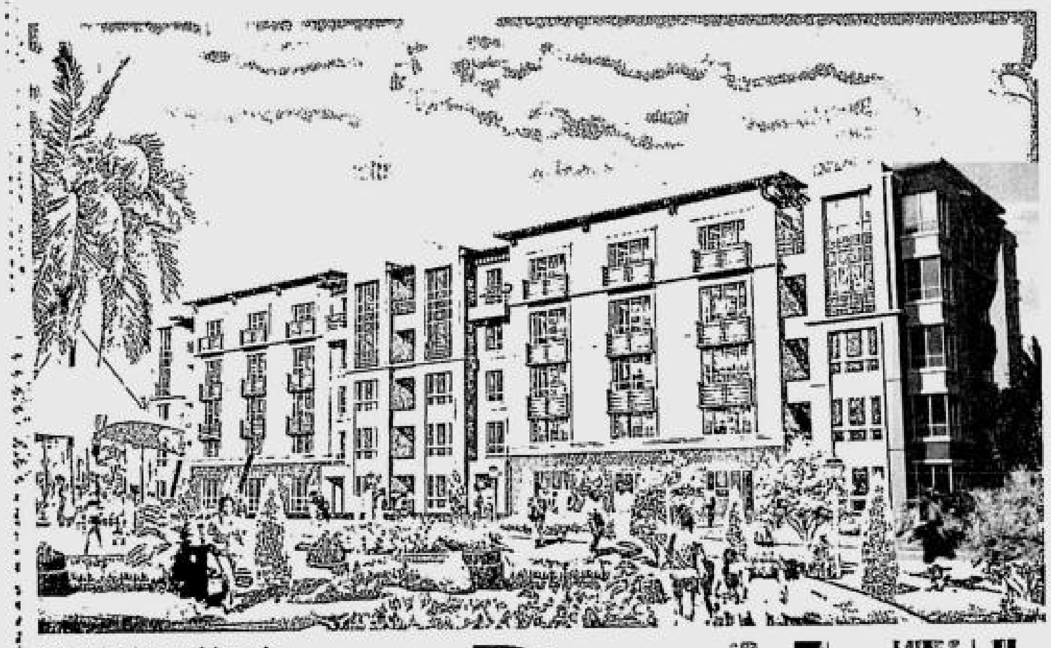
According to him, people are now more aware of the paranormal and are now more careful in dealing with their environment. Licauco observes that nowadays, some people ask the group to investigate on a property first before the owners do anything with it, such as cut trees.

Telltale signs

So how would you know that your abode is inhabited by beings other than what you see? Licauco said the presence of elementals such as a dwarf could manifest in material objects disappearing and reappearing in another spot; an earthly smell; "peripheral" sightings—you make out a figure at the corner of your eyesight, but when you direct your gaze at the spot, there's nothing there. Manifestations of a spirit include lights turning on and off, doors locking on their own; or a feeling of a presence that causes your hair to stand on end, and nervousness.

As of press time, INQUIRER Property has not found any homeowner or real estate broker willing to go on the record for paranormal encounters. Truth, it seems, is indeed stranger—and harder to accept—than fiction.

The Paranormal Services Group can be e-mailed at innerawareness_2005@yahoo.com.



THIS is the architect's perspective of Lions Park Residences located in Sun Valley, Parañaque City. The first tower will be turned over to residents in June 2007.

THE MASTER'S bedroom of the two-bedroom model unit offers spacious interiors.

Quadrillion launches new residential condo today

THE QUADRILLION GROUP OF COMPANIES, through its real estate marketing and development firm Quadrillion Sales, will break ground today its newest residential condominium project.

Quadrillion president and CEO Melesa "Elsie" Chua will lead the groundbreaking rites for the first tower of Lions Park Residences (LPR) with other Quadrillion executives. The project is conveniently located in Sun Valley, Parañaque City, within 15 minutes of the Makati Business District and within easy access to the international airport and schools.

Chua will also lead the unveiling of two model units. The one-bedroom unit, measuring 30 square meters, was specifically designed with young professionals in mind, considering that there is an intense business activity from the pharmaceutical, logistics, and manufacturing companies nearby. The two-bedroom unit offers ample space for a growing family, as it was ingeniously designed at 42 sq m.

Affordable

The affordable unit prices and convenient payment terms make this Quadrillion project stand out among similar developments. A unit can be reserved for only P15,000 with monthly amortizations of as low as P5,000. Buyers can also combine adjacent units for bigger unit spaces for their families.

Chua promised that the first LPR residents can move in as early as June 2007. "After this groundbreaking ceremony, we will immediately proceed with a fast but quality construction so that our clients will enjoy the comforts of their new homes soonest at Lions Park Residences."

OFW investors

Most of their clients are foreign-based Filipinos, popularly called overseas Filipino workers or OFWs. Proof of the project's strong salability is the remarkable response LPR generated during their Hawaii-Japan-Vienna-London roadshow. The roadshow generated P150 million in revenues for Lions Park. Thus, Quadrillion is now preparing for the second leg of the roadshow to entice more and more OFWs to invest in an LPR unit.

In particular, the OFWs invested in Lions Park because they were eyeing the host of amenities within this eco-friendly community. Landscaped parks are generously laid out in between buildings and the open spaces. A swimming pool, a playground with a fish pond and butterfly garden, jogging trails and barbeque pits make it an ideal residence for growing families. Each building will also have its own elevator to make it convenient for residents.

Heads of families, young professionals, and investors can join the Lions Park Residences groundbreaking and open house by simply calling (632) 813-8331 or (632) 750-1300. Or check out www.quadrilliongroup.com.ph.

Spreading your tunes anywhere around the property

By Charles E. Buban

THE TOUGH and versatile Bose Free Space 51 environmental speakers are designed to stay outside all year long.

SO, YOU HAVE THE GARDEN, the food and the company, but what about the tunes? Important to just about every gathering, music is second only to lighting in terms of creating ambiance.

"Besides, having spent years collecting a fabulous collection of CDs and MP3 downloads, why not share them with your guests? It used to be that music can only be enjoyed in the living room. These days it's also possible to bring it to the kitchen, backyard, or just about anywhere around the property," explains Wilson So, president and GM of Eleksis Marketing Corp., exclusive distributor of Bose entertainment systems in the country.

The company recently showcased in its newest branch located at the SM Mall of Asia a host of audio and multimedia systems meant for those building new homes, renovating or planning to put up audio systems outdoor.

Incorporate

"Among the challenges when building a new home or renovating an existing one is how to incorporate the audio system seamlessly into the architecture of one's home. Even if homeowners would love to bring the music to other rooms and even outside, they wouldn't like their speakers and wirings ruining their home's décor," So says.

He explains that Bose, for example, has a team of experts who could coordinate with homeowners and builders to come up with solutions that could hide or make the system blend into the room.

"Only luxurious sound will fill your home instead of equipment that compromises your décor," So promises.

He adds that Bose's technology would allow home dwellers to have the music on in all the rooms, and as they walk around, hear the music continuously.

Type of speakers

Another issue is the choice of the right type of speaker. "Not all speakers are built the same. While in-room speakers would perform excellently inside enclosed spaces, it will not work well outdoors as there would be nothing if not less structures for the sound to bounce off," So explains.

According to him, this is why Bose came out with environmental speakers that could bring music to any outdoor location—in the garden, porch or even by the pool.

"You might wonder how such a speaker placed near your feet delivers such clear, natural sound to your ears. The Free Space 51 speakers, for example, offer exceptionally broad, even coverage, thanks to a radial design that enables 360-degree sound dispersion. Its rugged, weather-resistant casing and downward-firing 4 1/2" full-range driver can stand extreme conditions to produce year-round sound, so they can be installed in the garden or near bodies of water," So says, revealing the open areas around the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City are equipped with Bose environmental speakers.

Another example are Bose's 251 and 151 SE environmental speakers, which can be connected to a Bose Lifestyle system and mounted to exterior walls and posts.

"Just like the Free Space 51, these speakers are also engineered and tested to withstand rain, salt and temperature extremes of 60 degrees Celsius to -30 degrees Celsius (251 model) and 70 degrees Celsius to -40 degrees Celsius (151 model). These speakers deliver a level of performance many conventional outdoor speakers—and most indoor speakers—simply cannot match. As proof, they are protected by a five-year limited warranty," So assures.

Remote convenience

He also explains that Bose system allow home dwellers to take advantage of a remote control.

"What if these people spend a lot of time outside—having barbecues, playing with children outside, relaxing by the pool—they can easily change the music without going inside," he boasts.

Indeed, So explains that planning on one's audio and multimedia system when building or renovating homes is a worthwhile investment. "It's part of the house so it raises its market value and perhaps, your image in the neighborhood."

THE BOSE 151 SE'S enhanced styling blends easily into the design of your home for unobtrusive listening.

Workshop on energy efficiency promotion successful

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

A STATE-OF-THE-ART OFFICE BUILDING, A retrofitted hospital, a retail mall, an office building and an innovative air-conditioning system have one thing in common. They are designed to save a lot of energy. They have been chosen as winners of this year's Asean Energy Awards because of their exceptional strategies in reducing energy. These projects were presented in a recent seminar-workshop held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati.

The seminar-workshop on the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation for buildings in Southeast Asia was organized by the Philippine Department of Energy (DOE), the Asean Centre of Energy (ACE) and the Energy Conservation of Japan (ECCJ).

The goal of the annual seminar-workshop is to share the energy-efficient principles and practices of the winning entries with the public and private sectors so that they may adopt the techniques and innovations that have made the entries leading models in the conservation of the Earth's depleting energy resources.

Opening statements

Christopher Zamora, manager for administration and finance of the Asean Centre for Energy (ACE), cited the role of ACE as a catalyst for the economic growth and development of the Asean region by initiating, coordinating and facilitating regional as well as joint and collective activities on energy. In his opening remarks, Zamora also noted the gradual shift from fossil fuels to renewable and other forms of energy.

Yoshitaka Ushio, general manager of the Energy Conservation Center of Japan (ECCJ), explained the close collaboration of Japan with Asean and the various activities they conduct to promote energy efficiency in the region such as energy audits, workshops and training programs.

Ushio also talked about the promotion of sustainable buildings in Japan and the trends in their energy consumption. He explained that two ministries have control over buildings from design to demolition. These agencies are concerned not only with energy efficiency but also with the quality of life as a result of energy management.

Energy Undersecretary Mariano Salazar welcomed the local and foreign guests including the technical experts from the Asean countries.

Marlon Domingo, DOE senior science research specialist, gave an overview of the department's initiatives to promote energy efficiency in the country through their "EC Way of Life" program. EC, which means energy conservation, is a program designed to reach out to people from all walks of life. Fuel economy run of different car models, newspaper ads, vehicle reduction program, alternative fuels, recognition programs, labeling systems and the Philippine Clean Air Act are some of the activities of DOE.

Best practices presentations

- Makati Stock Exchange Building, (MSE), Philippines—2nd runner-up, Retrofitted Building category

Kristoffer Louie Amora, property manager, presented the retrofitted features of MSE such as double-glazed windows, relamping, building management system, air-conditioning system and preventive maintenance systems.

- Greenbelt 3 Mall, Philippines

Jowell Velvez, property manager, showcased the mall's passive design features such as daylighting, extensive landscaping with water features, and retrofitted active features such as condensing water system, lighting system, cooling tower and solid waste management.

- Plaza BII, Jakarta, Indonesia (2005 winner—Retrofitted Building category)

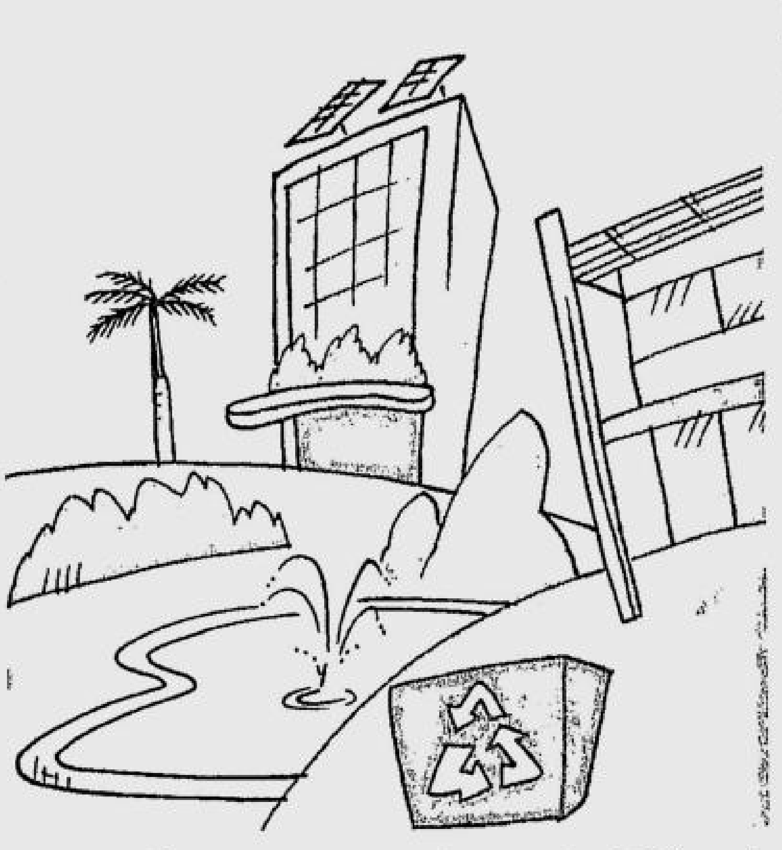
John Budi Harjanto Listijono, from the ATMA Jaya University, highlighted building features where the building is oriented facing north-south, the use of solar reflective glass walls, a flexible air-conditioning system that responds to the fluctuating needs of the tenants based on sensors and tenant participation.

Budi discussed an innovative air-conditioning system that cuts down humidity while increasing efficiency through a water jet nozzle.

He also presented GRHA Wonokoyo Surabaya, this year's second runner-up in the new and existing building category. Some of the features are energy-efficient site planning, high-performance glass and energy consumption monitoring system.

- Tan Tock Seng Hospital-Singapore (winner, Retrofitted Building category)

Vincent Tang Beng Ong, senior engineer, presented Singapore's second biggest and tallest hospital. He mentioned chiller optimization, photo cell sensors, UVC emitters for coil cleaning to save water, rain sensors to cut off pumps when rains come, carbon dioxide sensors, fuel cells and carbon monoxide sensors.



- Ministry of Energy, Water and Communication Building (Low Energy Office) Malaysia (winner—New and Existing Building category)

Abd. Rahim Mahmood presented the features of Malaysia's first government building targeting 50 percent energy saving compared to other buildings without energy-efficiency design. Important features are tropical vegetation inside and outside the building, natural ventilation, maximized use of daylight assisted by light shelves, shading devices, green roof, thermal flue stack and curtain wall glazing.

The way forward

Akira Kobayashi from the Energy Conservation Center of Japan shared the advanced measures and technology for energy efficiency and conservation in Japan. He said their policy regarding energy conservation is based on economic growth, environmental protection and energy security. Other measures discussed were Japan's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol (6 percent of greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 level), incentives for businesses, licensing for energy managers and subsidies.

Maureen Balamiento from the Asean Centre of Energy explained the development of a technical directory for major industries and buildings for Asean member-countries to introduce and promote technologies and best practices on EE&C available in the world and in Asean. The directory is also designed to encourage further investments, help create the market and promote a culture of increased efficiency.

Closing ceremonies

Director Mario Marasigan of DOE Energy Utilization Management Bureau assisted by Yoshitaka Ushio, distributed certificates of appreciation to the technical experts and presenters.

Marasigan also delivered the closing remarks and thanked the participants, especially the technical experts. He concluded the affair with a note of optimism about the positive growth and awareness of energy efficiency in the region.

The challenge

This is the second time Manila hosted the workshop. With the knowledge gained from the workshop, the participants look forward to applying sustainable building practices in their projects.

By increasing quality of life derived from the safety, comfort, flexibility and beauty of buildings, and decreasing the environmental impact in all processes related to building and construction, a higher environmental efficiency will be achieved.

Asean Best Building Practices guidelines are available at the DOE. Call Marlon Domingo at 840-2243.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

A taste of global living at One Serendra

AYALA LAND PREMIER RECENTLY PROVIDED its valued clients and prospective homeowners of One Serendra a more in-depth experience of its unparalleled luxurious suburban living promise through a festival of international cuisine, fashion and design from its rising retail promenade appropriately named Shops at Serendra.

The recent open house event, dubbed "A Taste of Global Living," brought together selected food, service and retail merchants of Shops at Serendra at the sprawling garden of the Serendra Sales Pavilion on 26th Street in Bonifacio Global City, right across the actual One Serendra site where the vision of luxurious suburban lifestyle is already taking shape and where Shops at Serendra was opened to the public since its soft launch in September. Guests reveled in the exciting multicultural atmosphere of Shops at Serendra, which truly complements the relaxed pace and globally influenced lifestyle at One Serendra.

Sumptuous spread

Laid out for the taking was a sumptuous spread of modern Filipino cuisine from Guagua, tapas and modern Spanish dishes from Gaudi, unique Mediterranean-Moroccan treats from Fez, a hearty pasta dish from Portico, and delectable desserts from Cupcakes by Sonja and Xocolat. Imagine the endless dining possibilities couples and families will enjoy in their One Serendra home—a virtual melting pot of flavors a stroll away.

A mini bazaar also showcased one-of-a-kind finds such as Oriental charms and accessories from World of Feng Shui, vintage clothing from Peppered Cherry, Asian-inspired fashion from Mantra, home furnishings from Isa Casa, and exquisite jewelry and fashion accessories from Luna. One Serendra homeowners will never have a difficult time filling their abodes with treasured keepsakes, art pieces and more from said merchants.

Pampering services

Early open house registrants were also treated to complimentary foot and hand care treatments from Nail Tropics & Body Shop and premium beauty care and dermatological packages from Renergy Dermspa. These are just some of the many pampering services one can look forward to living at One Serendra. There will be no more tedious trips to malls or shopping centers for physical rejuvenation.

Also provided to One Serendra clients were additional treats in the form of a passport booklet with various discounts from the shops that participated in the event—an exclusive ticket to the good life at One Serendra.

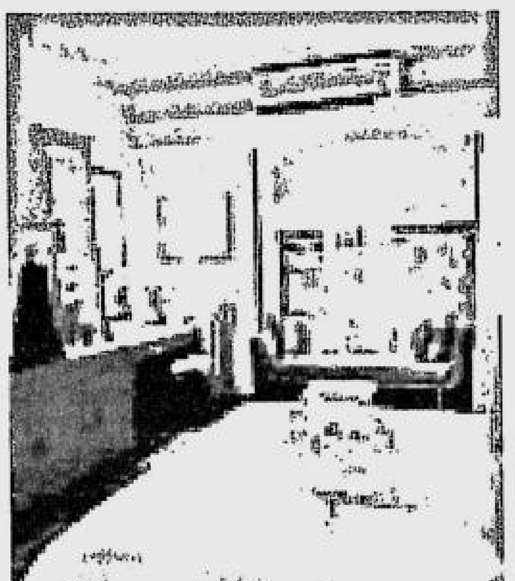
First glance

The event also gave the public and prospective buyers a first glance at One Serendra's newly designed one-bedroom unit by renowned interior designer Gerry Contreras. His interior concept focused on a neoclassical European design, filling the spacious one-bedroom unit with warm colors and timeless yet modern pieces of furniture, truly befitting the international perspective of One Serendra dwellers and would-be unit owners. Classic accents such as rich drapes, wood pieces and ornate furniture with plush upholstery, all in shades of gold, copper and black spoke befittingly of the understated luxury, exclusivity and elegance that One Serendra provides.

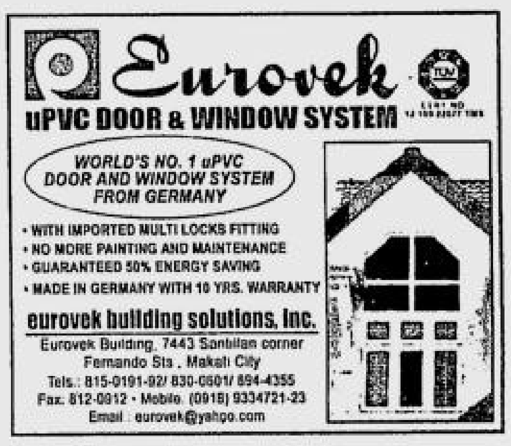
Also unveiled was a new and more spacious marketing area, providing more room for clients who are interested in One Serendra to understand the development even more and appreciate the inimitable luxury of space and enjoyment the Ayala Land Premier development offers. One Serendra's sales pavilion area has designer furniture and carefully chosen interior design elements, reflective of the discerning tastes of its valued clients.

For more information on One Serendra, call 889-1SER (1878), e-mail oneserendra@ayalalandpremier.com or visit www.oneserendra.com.

ONE Serendra's expanded and redesigned marketing area at the Serendra sales pavilion in Bonifacio Global City is a true reflection of the refined and elegant experience of the Ayala Land Premier lifestyle.



THE ONE-BEDROOM model unit was designed by architect Gerry Contreras, in a classic but modern European-inspired theme.



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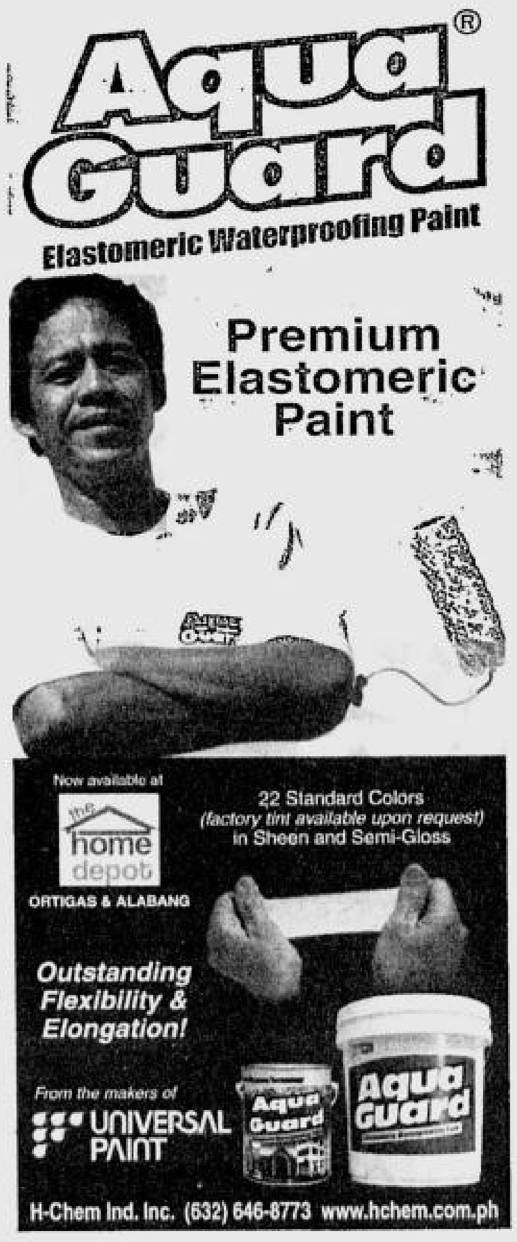

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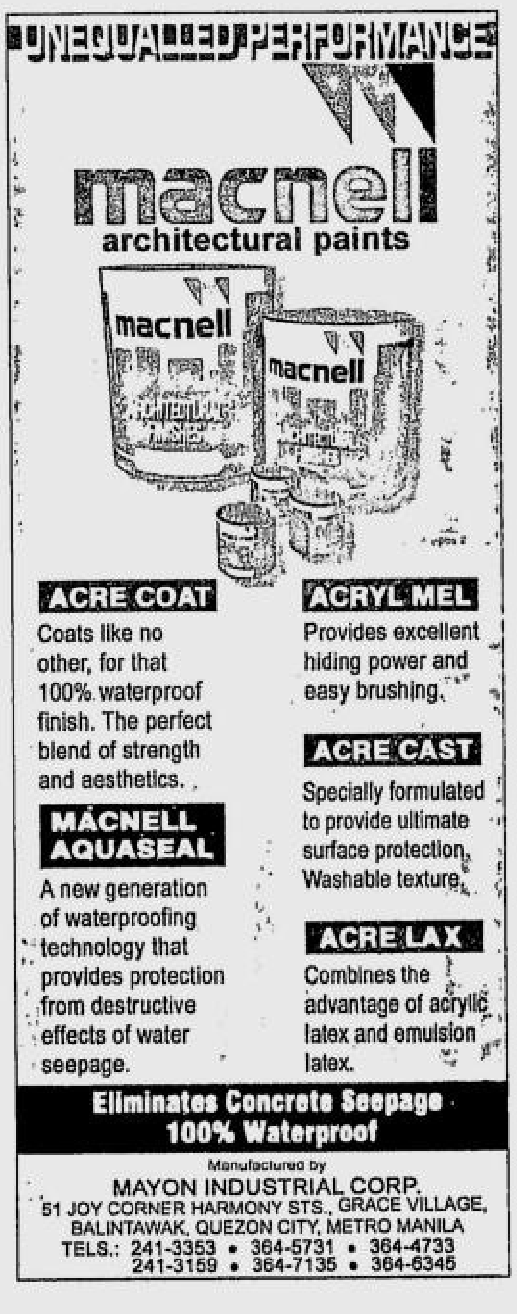

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OBITUARIES

"Our true home is in heaven, and Jesus Christ whose return we long for will come to save us."
Philippians 3:20

Our Dearly Beloved

RITA FRANCISCO FERNANDO

Peacefully joined our Lord Jesus
and the Blessed Mother on October 25, 2006.

Her husband **Luis G. Fernando**; loving children **Anthony**, **Gerardo**, and **Margarita**; daughters-in-law **Agnes** and **Grace**; grandchildren **Chiara**, **Paolo**, **Josemaria**, and **Gelo**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in the **Agoncillo Chapel** of **Funeraria Paz** at the **Manila Memorial**, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on **Sunday, October 29, 2006** right after the **3:00 p.m.** Holy Mass.

Pedrito Veneracion Datiles, M.D.

Peacefully joined our Creator
on October 26, 2006 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Asuncion Edralin Datiles**; adopted son **Bars** and **Lala**; parents **Tino** (†) and **Luming** (†); brothers **Fr. Romy** (†), **Larry** (†) and **Lina**; sister **Luz** (†) and **Romy Del Rosario**; nephews and nieces: **Lorna** and **Ver Fabian**, **Nenet** and **Dennis de Guzman**, **Rolly** and **Lani**, **Romy**, **Nonoy** and **Gilda**, **Linda** and **Rommel Roncal**, **Regen**, **Des** and **Noel Donato**, **Loida**; grandchildren, cousin **Junior Veneracion** and family, relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Parish, Chapel C, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Quezon City on Sunday, October 29, 2006 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

RP suspends deployment of OFWs to Tengiz; sends team to worksite

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED TO ensure the safety of overseas Filipino workers in Kazakhstan by temporarily suspending the deployment and departure of OFWs bound for Tengiz, and sending a Composite Team to assess the situation and ensure the well-being of the OFWs in the area.

On behalf of Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, who is currently on an official mission to Japan, Acting Labor Secretary Danilo P. Cruz has issued DOLE Department Order No. 76-06, Series of 2006, for immediate implementation, as follows:

"In view of the disturbing situation in Tengiz, Kazakhstan that might adversely affect the security and welfare of our Filipino workers, the processing and deployment of Filipino workers to any worksite in Tengiz is hereby suspended temporarily, until further order." Cruz said that Tengiz had been the site of the recent massive riot reportedly pitting locals against Turkish workers that injured 300 people involved, two of them seriously.

Nonetheless, the Acting Labor Chief said that none of the estimated 450 documented OFWs in the area, comprising half of around 900 OFWs in the entire country, had been directly involved in the unrest.

However, Cruz said that security measures have already been instituted to protect Filipino workers. "Bechtel, the OFWs' main employer in Tengiz, had already moved them to a safer, exclusive dormitory, while the Kazakhstan government also augmented the existing security force," he said.

Cruz also disclosed that the Philippine government's joint Composite Team composed of no less than the Philippine Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Jaime Yambao; Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia-based Labor Attache Rustico de la Fuente; DFA Consul General Agnes Cervantes, and representatives of Bechtel and the recruitment agency, International Skills Development, will proceed to Kazakhstan on Thursday, Oct. 26. The team is expected to arrive there on Friday, Oct. 27.

Cruz directed De La Fuente to hold a dialog onsite with the OFWs in Tengiz, and ascertain fully their conditions amidst the situation in the area in order to ensure their safety and well-being, and activate responses, including possible repatriation, when necessary.

"While the crisis is clearly not on the scale of the recent war in Lebanon, we are on full alert in order to ensure the safety and well-being of our workers amidst their positive role in the growth and development of the Kazakhstan economy," Cruz said, adding that those who want to come home will be repatriated.

People, Events & Products

Aristocrat's 'BBQ ng Bayan Cook Fest'

IN LINE WITH ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, THE ARISTOCRAT RESTAURANT IS INVITING everyone, the young and young-at-heart alike, to take part in its BBQ ng Bayan Cook Fest to be held at the Rajah Sulayman Park in Malate today. The Aristocrat's BBQ ng Bayan Cook Fest, which gives barbecue-lovers a special treat by way of a unique "grill-your-own pork or chicken meal" experience, is the iconic restaurant's way of celebrating this special occasion with loyal patrons who have made The Aristocrat a part of their lives and family tradition for over 70 years now. To join, simply buy a BBQ ng Bayan Cook Fest coupon worth P70 from any branch of The Aristocrat Restaurant, The Aristocrat Convenience Store, and The Aristocrat Bakeshop. This coupon may be exchanged for a BBQ ng Bayan kit consisting of a pair of pork and chicken BBQ sticks. Each kit also comes with a plate of rice, java sauce, atchara, drinks, and dessert. The Aristocrat will also be bringing in various artists, live bands and other surprise guest performers during the event to spice up the party even more for the whole family. Visit your favorite outlet of The Aristocrat Restaurant at the following branches: along Jupiter St. in Makati, Robinsons Place in Manila, San Andres along Roxas Boulevard in Malate, and the newly-opened branches at SM San Lazaro, SM Mall of Asia, and The Block SM City North Edsa.

St. Luke's holds forum on IMRT of Prostate Cancer

ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER WILL BE HOLDING A BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM ON PROSTATE CANCER, THE acknowledged leading disease of the male reproductive system worldwide. "IMRT of the Prostate Cancer, the St. Luke's Medical Center Experience" will gather local experts and medical practitioners to a lively discussion on the latest trends and developments in the combat against this emerging disease among Filipino men at the Boracay 1 Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City on Oct. 28 at 6:30 a.m. IMRT or Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy is the most advanced cancer fighting technology today and is the treatment of choice in many cases. It is used when increased conformity to irregularly shaped tumors is required and when radiation doses to healthy organs are critical. It has the most accurate control over radiation beam intensity that target specific locations with precision, ease and fast result while sparing healthy body cells of any significant radiation exposure. For more information about the symposium, interested parties may call 723-0101 ext. 5411.

AGSB holds grand alumni homecoming

AS PART OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, THE ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (AGSB) is holding an Alumni and Students Night on Nov. 24, 2 at 7 p.m. at the Rockwell Tent, Makati City . Dubbed as "RnR: Rewind, Nwind, Remind", the grand alumni homecoming promises to be a night of excitement, fun and entertainment. Reconnect with AGSB and meet your fellow alumni and establish new ties in the business community as the event is expected to attract more than 500 alumni and students. The RnR is one of the major events and activities that aims to initiate and strengthen community building among AGSB's alumni and students. For RnR tickets and reservations, please contact Rod Baldonado or Beth Suyom at 899-7691 local 2214 or 2217 or visit www.gsb.ateneo.edu.

UP Alumni Engineers holds homecoming

THE UP ALUMNI ENGINEERS (UPAE) WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING ON NOV. 6 at the Manila Polo Club. The occasion will be marked by the recognition of this year's jubilarians, composed of the graduates of 1956, 1966, and 1981. The annual departmental awards to recognize the valuable contributions of the alumni in their respective fields will also be given. The UPAE has been at the forefront of fund-raising activities for the benefit of the college and of the university. This year marks the 1st UPAE - College of Engineering raffle draw, which includes as its major prizes a BMW car, a Ridley motorcycle, Toyota Altis car and Hyundai Getz car. Other prizes include computers and cellular phones. The winning numbers will be drawn on the homecoming night. The proceeds of the raffle draw will be used to renovate several classrooms of Melchor Hall. Registration starts at 6 p.m. Homecoming tickets cost P1,000 and are available at the gates or from the UPAE office at Room 218, Melchor Hall. For more information please contact the UPAE through email (upae@emgg.upd.edu.pj), telephone (981-8500 local 3123), and mobile (0919-488-0748) or visit www.upaealumniengineers.org.

Travel package to Banaue

BONTOC MUSEUM AND THE MAGNIFICENT MT. POLIS ARE JUST TWO OF THE PLACES YOU CAN visit when you go to Banaue. These are places not much heard of but will surely awe you no end. Engrande Travel and Tours will have a Banaue tour on Nov. 3-5. This is the best time of the year to see these places because of the good weather. The greens of the terraces is simply picture perfect, and the trip to the hanging coffins in Sagada makes the tour really worth your while. For more information on the tour call 851-0361; mobile 0921-9796165; or e-mail engrandephils@yahoo.com.ph.

CBC batch 1982 silver jubilee

THE COLEGIO DEL BUEN CONSEJO BATCH 1982 WILL CELEBRATE ITS SILVER JUBILEE ON JULY 28, 2007, Saturday at the Tektite Tower Function Hall Ortigas Center Pasig City. Please text 0927-917-8288 for details.

LSQC's OktuBEERit 2006

LOURDES SCHOOL QUEZON CITY BATCH '82, IN COOPERATION WITH THE LSQC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, invites all alumni and friends to "OktuBEERit" on Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Magnificat Hall of the LSQC High School. OktuBEERit is an annual event featuring alumni musicians, with guests coming from Lourdes School of Mandaluyong. Now on its fourth year, this year's event will feature 60s surf music, 70s classic rock, 80s pop rock, blues and jazz standards, and promises to be a night of jamming and partying. Please bring your alumni ID to avail of discounts. For more details, please visit www.lsqcaa.org or call the alumni office at 412-LSAA (5722).

Cinemanila brings back Weng-Weng, Cleopatra Wong

REMEMBER WENG-WENG, THE WORLD'S ONLY MIDGET JAMES BOND WHO PLAYED WITH HIS BIG guns via the action-comedy For Your Height Only 1979? See him strut his stuff anew with the rest of the cast of unforgettable 'B'-movie characters when Cinemanila 2006 brings to the country the hit feature "Bamboo Gods and Bionic Boys", a video documentary-cum-lecture on the B-movie phenomenon in the Philippines by Australian filmmaker Andrew Leavold of Trash Video. And if the overdose of B-movie clips is not "bad" enough for you, Cinemanila completes your fill of guilty pleasure with the follow-up showing of "Cleopatra Wong", the full feature. The back-to-back showing of 'Bamboo Gods and the Bionic Boys' and 'Cleopatra Wong', showing on Nov. 8 is a uniquely hilarious cinematic treat from the 2006 Cinemanila International Film Festival.

Parkinson's Support Group meeting

THE PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP OF THE PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION (PSGP) WILL HOLD A MEETING on Nov. 5, (Sunday) at the auditorium of the Cathedral Heights Building (South Tower), 14th floor of the St. Luke's Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Sr. avenue Quezon City. Guest lecturer will be Dr. Wilfred Dee, one of top cardiologists practicing at St. Luke's and PGH. He will discuss the various cardiac manifestations and other Parkinsonian syndrome. He will also talk about how the Parkinson's medication affect the health. An open forum will follow the lecture. Dr. Virgilio H. Evidente is the medical adviser of the PSGP. Registration will start at 12 noon. Lunch will be served free sponsored by the manufacturer of the Parkinson's medication Tasmar (tolcapone).

Introductory Retreat on Centering Prayer

CENTERING PRAYER AWAKENS THE SPIRITUAL LEVEL OF OUR CONSCIOUSNESS, DIRECTING OUR will to constantly and repeatedly consent to God's presence and action in our day-to-day living. If you yearn for this intimate relationship with God, you are invited to learn about Centering Prayer at the Introductory Retreat on Centering Prayer to be conducted by Contemplative Outreach Philippines on Nov. 10, 11, and 12, at Karis Retreat House in Tagaytay City. For inquiries and further information interested persons may call Anna Marie at 842-0201 or 842-4030, or e-mail annamariellanos@yahoo.com.

DOH, DOT launch Phil Medical Tourism Congress logo

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM HAVE LAUNCHED THE OFFICIAL LOGO for the first Philippine Medical Tourism Congress, Exposition and Grand Launch, which will bring together the best healthcare, wellness and travel providers in the country on Nov. 20 and 21 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza. Designed by Honors Inc, the logo portrays a blue and red ribbon wrapped in the shape of a heart around the medical symbol caduceus and the globe featuring a super-imposed map of the Philippines. The blue and red ribbon, tied around the caduceus, symbolizes the Philippines as a new global provider of quality health care. The first Philippine Medical Tourism Congress, Expo and Grand Launch aims to promote the Philippines as a major player in Medical Tourism, competing with regional leaders such as Thailand, Singapore and India. The two-day congress will feature talks and seminars on the progress of the country as a health holiday destination and will present opportunities for the health and travel industry as major players in this joint venture. For inquiries, please contact Joyce Alumno at 437-7090 or 0918-9124509 or send an e-mail to honors_inc@yahoo.com.

UST High School Batch 1967 slates grand reunion

THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE UST HS BATCH '67 GRAND REUNION HAD AN EARLY jumpstart and began preparation for its grand get-together to celebrate its 40th (Ruby) Anniversary. Plans are now afoot to have a 4-day reunion from Feb. 15-18, 2007 in Manila. Alumni based in the U.S., Canada and other parts of the world will be in attendance. Various activities are being lined up that will include the annual UST HS Grand Alumni Homecoming hosted by the Golden and Silver Jubilarians to be held at the Manila Hotel on Feb. 17, 2007. All local residents are enjoined to register with any of the following: Vic dela Dingco at residence no. 896-6820, mobile no. 0917-842-8672 or office no. 423-6724 and Delia Castañeda de Jesus at office no. 899-9824 or mobile no. 0918-939-7621.

R.I. District 3800 Spouses organize 'Fashion For A Cause'

IN SUPPORT OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL THRUST ON LITERACY AND HEALTH, THE RI DISTRICT 3800 Rotary Spouses Association led by DGL Elena Dee will hold a fund-raising activity entitled "Passion for Fashion" on Nov. 11, 7 p.m. at the Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City. Funds raised from the fashion show will support three of the Spouses Association's major projects, namely: Distribution of Tagalog-English Dictionaries to Grade 3 students in various public schools in the district; Essay Writing Contest for High School public school students; and for Kythe Foundation, an NGO that provides psychosocial support to pediatric patients suffering from cancer and other chronic illnesses. For details and ticket inquiries call the District Office at 635-3800 c/o Baby Alberto.

15 years of original Filipino CreativIT

JAN. 6, 2007 MARKS DIGITAL INFOSTRUCTURE'S 15 YEARS OF ORIGINAL FILIPINO CREATIVIT. WHAT started as a one-man software company founded in 1992 by Nilo Poso, Digital Infostructure has grown into a powerhouse enterprise software company serving blue-chip Philippine companies such as BPI, McDonald's, Texas Instruments, to name a few. It's the tenacity on its vision that makes Digital Infostructure tick. From the day it was founded, Digital Infostructure has concentrated its energies and resources on creating an "infostructure system" that will power an enterprise of any size and type of business. The rest, as they say, is history. Today, Digital Infostructure boasts of an array of software brands that have become popular in the market such as PayFast, PeopleWARE, BOS/e PeopleWARE and iBOS/e WebShell.Digital Infostructure business address is on the 12/Flr 6780 Ayala Ave. Makati City with telephone numbers (632)893-8844/(632)893-8865/(632) 892-3325 or visit online www.infostructure.com.ph digitalinfostructure@eenterprise.net.

NOTICE OF THE DISSOLUTION OF ECODE INC.

BY SHORTENING CORPORATE TERM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON AUGUST 31, 2006, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ECODE INC. APPROVED THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATIONS CORPORATE TERM TO END EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 01, 2006. THE APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT OF THE CORPORATION ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION SHORTEN ITS CORPORATE TERM WILL BE FILED WITH SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION. THIS SHALL SERVE AS NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION BY SHORTENING ITS CORPORATE TERM.

VERA STO. TOMAS
CORPORATE SECRETARY

(PDI – October 14, 21 & 28, 2006)

INVITATION TO BID

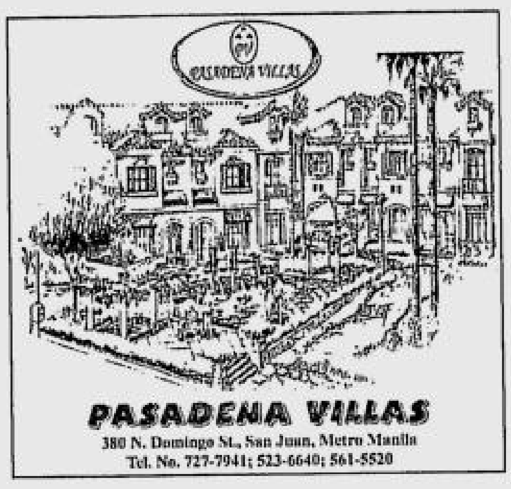
"AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

1997 Mitsubishi Lancer GLXI/UME-490
2001 Toyota Corolla 1.3 / XAW-894
1999 Kia Panoramic Van / WKD-975

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc.
Dick Cariño. Tel.# **878-54-57**

(PDI-Oct. 28 & 29, 2006)



PASADENA VILLAS
380 N. Domingo St., San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 727-7941; 523-6640; 561-5520

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 6
Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 329-2165/320-6246
Fax No. (033) 320-4764

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ***National Food Authority, Region 6***, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified grains handling services contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains handling services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Region VI for Calendar Year 2007.

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	ESTIMATED VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (in bag of 50 kgs)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	Bidding Fee
1	Aklan	48,900	P 184,842.00	P1,000.00
2	Antique	58,140	P 219,769.20	P1,000.00
3	Capiz	108,650	P 410,697.00	P1,500.00
4	Iloilo & Guimaras	271,300	P 1,025,514.00	P3,500.00
5	Negros Occidental	220,000	P 831,600.00	P3,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Octo. 20 - Nov. 2, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	November 3, 2006 - 9:30 AM
3. Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Documents	November 15, 2006 - 9:30 AM

The National Food Authority, Region 6 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The ***National Food Authority, Region 6*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 21 & 28, 2006)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF:
PETITION FOR REHABILITATION WITH PRAYER FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS NO. Q-05-121

GLORIMART TRADING, INC.
Petitioner.
x-------------------------------------x

ORDER

In the interest of justice, set the Rehabilitation Receiver's evaluation report dated September 28, 2006 for hearing on **November 7, 2006** and **November 14, 2006** both at 2:00 p.m.

Serve copies of this Order upon the Rehabilitation Receiver Mr. Antonio M. Aledo; the petitioner, and all counsels and/or other interested parties.

The petitioner/Rehabilitation Receiver are ordered to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Manila Bulletin and The Philippine Star on October 28, 2006 (Saturday) in the business section of said newspapers.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, October 3, 2006.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO B. DAWAY, C.P.A.
Presiding Judge

(PDI - Oct. 28, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that official receipts of ZUELLIG PHARMA CORP. bearing series OR Nos. 643151-643200 has been lost. Any transaction covered by those OR# shall not be honored by the company.

ZUELLIG PHARMA
Your Market Partner in Distribution
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, 1265 Makati City

(PDI – October 28, 2006)

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JEWELRY
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Tel# 894-0282
Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office
Second Agrarian Reform
Communities Development Project
IBRD Loan No. 7152PH

INVITATION TO EXPRESS INTEREST

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank, through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to finance the implementation of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP2) being implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Baseline Study of 45 new Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) under ARCDP2.

The services are expected to be completed in three (3) months which include: (i) assessment of current conditions in targeted and control new ARCs; (ii) a household survey of the 45 additional ARCs covered by ARCDP2; and (iii) generate baseline information taking into consideration the performance indicators identified under the Project. The survey results will be used to make empirical data analysis in future assessment for the project.

The Department of Agrarian Reform now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. The team will be composed of:

- Team Leader/Agricultural Economist (3 person-months) - with experience as team leader for at least 5 similar projects and with strong track record in the conduct of baseline and impact studies of agrarian reform projects particularly those using the integrated area development approach;
- Institutional/Community Development and Capacity Building Specialist (3 person-months) - with experience as institutional/community development and capacity building specialist for at least 5 similar projects and should be familiar with ARCs, ARBs, and government and non-government institutions that support them;
- Statistician - (1.5 person-months) - with experience as statistician for at least 5 similar projects and expertise in establishing databases for future evaluation of agrarian reform projects, should have extensive experience in design and conduct of cost-and time-effective socio-economic and institutional surveys.
- Resource persons, research assistants, field supervisors, survey enumerators and administrative support staff as required by the technical team.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar projects, samples of relevant outputs, no. of on-going projects/contracts, financial statements for the last 2 years, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*, May 2004.

Interested consultants may obtain additional information from Mr. Adelberto B. Baniqued at the address below during office hours.

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below by no later than **5:00 p.m. of November 10, 2006.**

Director Nelson G. Genito
Executive Director for FAPSO
Department of Agrarian Reform
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. (632) 453-1854; 426-7367

(Sgd.) **Dir. NELSON G. GENITO**
Director, Administrative Service
Executive Director, FAPSO

(PDI - Oct. 28, 2006)

ERRATUM

In the Notice of Filing of Application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s (AEP/s) of the DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – National Capital Region (DOLE-NCR) on October 24, 2006 in this paper, the name of foreign national **Ogueri Eusebius Uwandu** was inadvertently printed as **Ogueri Husebius Uwandu.**

Our apologies.

Inquire about the JobMarket package at
JOBCOMPACT at 897-8808 loc 514. JOB Market

Japan donates rice for Milenyo victims

JAPAN'S MINISTRY OF AGRICULture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), through the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR), has donated 200 metric tons or 4,000 bags of rice to victims of typhoon Milenyo in regions 4 and 5.

The rice donation was released to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which will distribute the rice to the affected families in the identified regions. The NFA, which represents the Philippines in the EAERR, is designated to keep the stocks based on a Memorandum of Agreement among member-countries.

The EAERR is an organization of Asean countries plus the countries of Japan, China and the Republic of Korea whose objective is to provide food aid for assistance in disaster areas and for poverty alleviation purposes.

At least 405,500 families or 2,053,568 individuals from the provinces of Quezon, Laguna and Batangas in region 4, and the provinces of Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate in region 5 are expected to benefit from the donations.

The Japanese government had earlier donated 19,049 bags of rice drawn from the food security stocks of the EAERR for relief and rehabilitation activities for Mayon victims in Albay.

ACWD, BANI INK MOA

The Alaminos City Water District in Pangasinan recently extended their services to the neighboring town of Bani that shall benefit around 500 households. In recent years, the Water District has also expanded its services in the remote barangays that shall increase their connections to around 8,000 by year end. Shown, signing of MOA are (seated from left) Bani Water District BOD-chair Franklin Cariño, BWD general manager Remadios Manaois, ACWD general manager Felipe B. Pagador, and ACWD BOD-chair Pete Montemayor Jr. Witnesses were the officers and board of directors from both parties.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
ASIA SOLUTION PHILIPPINES INC. 903 RCBC Plaza Tower 2 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Takahiro Matsubara	General Manager
AJINOMOTO PHILIPPINES CORP. 331 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue Makati City	Hiroshi Tamura	Department Manager – Research & Development
KOREA EXCHANGE BANK 33/F Citibank Tower 8741 Paseo de Roxas St. Salcedo Village, Makati City	Sae Young Kim	Assistant Manager
E.Y. INDUSTRIAL SALES, INC. 520 T. Alonzo cor. Espeleta St. Sta. Cruz, Manila	Mingbiao Li	Marketing Manager
TES PHILIPPINES INC. EDSA MRT Project Office North Avenue, Quezon City	Noriyuki Okada	Manager
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Edy Gunawan	IT Staff/ Customer Support Staff
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Lamina Martono	IT Staff/ Customer Support Staff
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Putra Tander	IT Staff/ Customer Support Staff
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Hendry Kuswandi	IT Director
ZIPANG GROUP, INC. 43/F Yuchengco Tower RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Paul Hidaki Hirakawa	Treasurer
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Sun Tjiu Ng	IT Staff/ Customer Support Staff
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Martin	IT Staff/ Customer Support Staff
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Edi	IT Staff/ Customer Support Staff
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Roni Tandiyan Tan	IT Staff/ Customer Support Staff
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Ali Widjaja	IT Staff/ Customer Support Staff
FRUIT GARDEN CORPORATION 302 Balagtas Villas, Balagtas St. Leveriza, Pasay City	Kwan Choon Cho	President
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE INC. 23/F Yuchengco Tower RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Mei Ying Ong	Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE INC. 23/F Yuchengco Tower RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Wav Lu Lim	Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE INC. 23/F Yuchengco Tower RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Ng Siew Leong	Customer Support Staff
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24/F Units K-Q Burgundy Tower One Makati City	Sie Jan Jap	IT Staff/ Customer Support Staff
BETERNAL CORPORATION No. 3 Brixton St., Bo. Kapitolyo Pasig City	Dong Hwan Kim	General Manager
ORANGE INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENT SERVICES Unit 601, 6/F, Belton Tower Perla St., Brgy. 008, Pasay City	Abdulkadir Ketenci	Marketing Director
ZEE PLASTIC MFG. CORP. No. 8 Beta St., Malinta Valenzuela City	Xiushan Shi	Consultant
EPIXTAR PHILIPPINES IT-ENABLED SERVICES CORP. Epixtar House, 5 Eastwood Ave. Eastwood City Cyber Park Libis, Quezon City	Lewis John Hall	Account Manager
UNIZ ECONO PHILS. INC. Unit 101 Ortigas Computer Depot Julia Vargas Ave., Pasig City	Eun Kyung Yu	Operations Manager
TES PHILIPPINES, INC. EDSA MRT Project Office North Ave., Quezon City	Shinichi Ito	Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 28, 2006)

BUSINESS

Still strong, peso seen to temper inflation

Currency strength hinges on BSP's key rates decision

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY HIT A NEW FOUR-year high of 49.76 before closing at 49.82 against the US dollar as upbeat investor sentiment drew more portfolio inflows.

And with the holidays just around the corner, remittances from overseas Filipino workers—which traditionally peak this time of the year—are also starting to pour in.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said that foreign portfolio investments and OFW inflows have been supporting the peso's strength.

The currency, in turn, is seen to temper the rise in consumer prices.

Tetangco told reporters that the country's average inflation rate for the year would likely be lower than 6.8 percent.

The local currency opened at its intraday low of 49.85 and peaked at 49.76 during the day, to finish at 49.82 against dollar.

The intra-day high of 49.76 was the highest level touched since May 23, 2002 when the peso hit 49.74.

The peso gained 6 centavos from Thursday's closing of 49.88:$1.

The volume at the Philippine Dealing System was heavy at $722 million compared to the average turnout of $500 million.

"I think the outlook for a stronger peso is still there, but I guess that, moving forward, the magnitude of appreciation will depend on the future decision of the BSP on its (overnight) interest rates," said ACI Philippines president and BDO Private Bank treasurer Jose Emmanuel Hilado.

"If the overnight rates will be reduced, then the appreciation will not be much, but the positive trend will still be there," Hilado said.

With the decrease in interest rates, investors are less likely to hold on to peso-denominated assets.

Also, the offshore market remained bullish on the Philippines' foreign currency-denominated sovereign bonds or ROPs.

As a consequence, when the state-owned National Power Corp. began issuing 10-year bonds, the price of the notes went up.

"We expect the strength of the government guarantee and positive sentiment toward the sovereign to drive the Napocor spread to 25 basis points over the course of 2007," ING Bank said.

The positive sentiment on the ROPs was further supported by comments from Finance Secretary Margarito Teves that the government may sell only $1 billion in new bonds next year, given the willingness of multilateral lenders to increase their support to the country.

For the first time since nearly a decade of grappling with huge budget deficits, inflows from official development assistance may exceed commercial borrowings and result in a decrease in the issuance of ROPs next year.

In the past, multilateral and bilateral lenders were reluctant to increase their credit line to the Republic, which was forced to tap more expensive commercial borrowings, such as bond floats, to fill the government's external funding requirements.

But the Philippines is now in a position to reverse this trend, the finance chief said.

The last time the government turned to ODA for its external funding rather than commercial bond floats was during the Ramos administration which ended in 1998.

Meanwhile, British banking giant Standard Chartered Bank is bullish on the country's solid economic fundamentals, citing twin growth engines fueled by robust export receipts and strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers.

The bank's Hong Kong-based economist Frances Cheung projected that the country's strong external position should push the peso higher to 48.50 by the first quarter of 2007.

Go easy on water use, Napocor warned

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES Board (NWRB) has cautioned National Power Corp. against getting too much water from Angat Dam for power generation.

NWRB said allocating too much water for power generation might lead to a water shortage in Metro Manila and nearby provinces considering Angat Dam's critical water levels.

Napocor sources hydroelectric power from Angat Dam, which is also the main source of potable water for Metro Manila households and irrigation for farmlands in Central Luzon.

"Napocor can still acquire water from Angat Dam but the agency has to strictly follow the allocated level of water releases," NWRB executive director Ramon Alikpala told the INQUIRER.

He noted that the agency's announcement of a "water shortage" in Manila restricted Napocor from using more than what it needs.

NWRB data showed that from May 1 until Oct. 15, Napocor used more water from Angat Dam to sell to the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

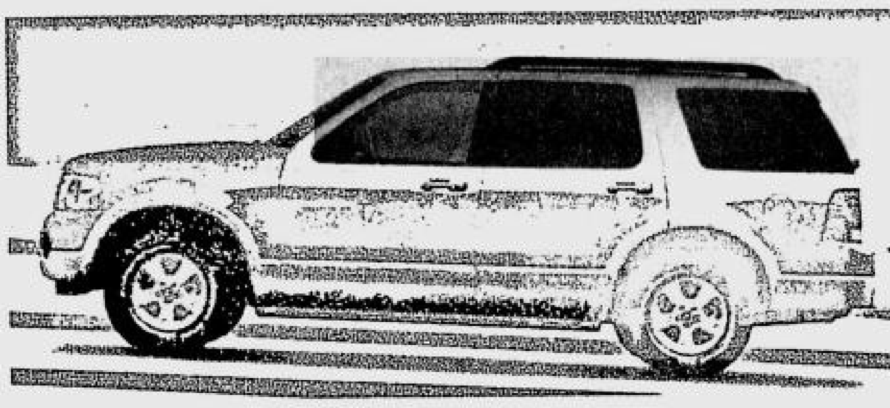
However, Alikpala noted that Napocor was only mandated to use the same amount of water as the National Irrigation Administration.

In case the water level goes below the critical level of 180 meters, water rationing will have to be implemented.

The initial cutback in the water supply would directly affect some 50,000 households served by east concessionaire Manila Water and some 166,868 households served by Maynilad in the west zone.

Maynilad's area that will experience low or no water pressure include 476 barangays in Northern Caloocan, Commonwealth, Roosevelt, Novaliches, Valenzuela, Quirino, South Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas, as well as Tondo, Sta. Cruz, Sampaloc, South Manila, Pasay-Makati, Parañaque and Cavite-Las Piñas.

Manila Water, on the other hand, said the 5-percent cutback in the water supply would not affect its customers in the east zone due to some contingency measures it has prepared.



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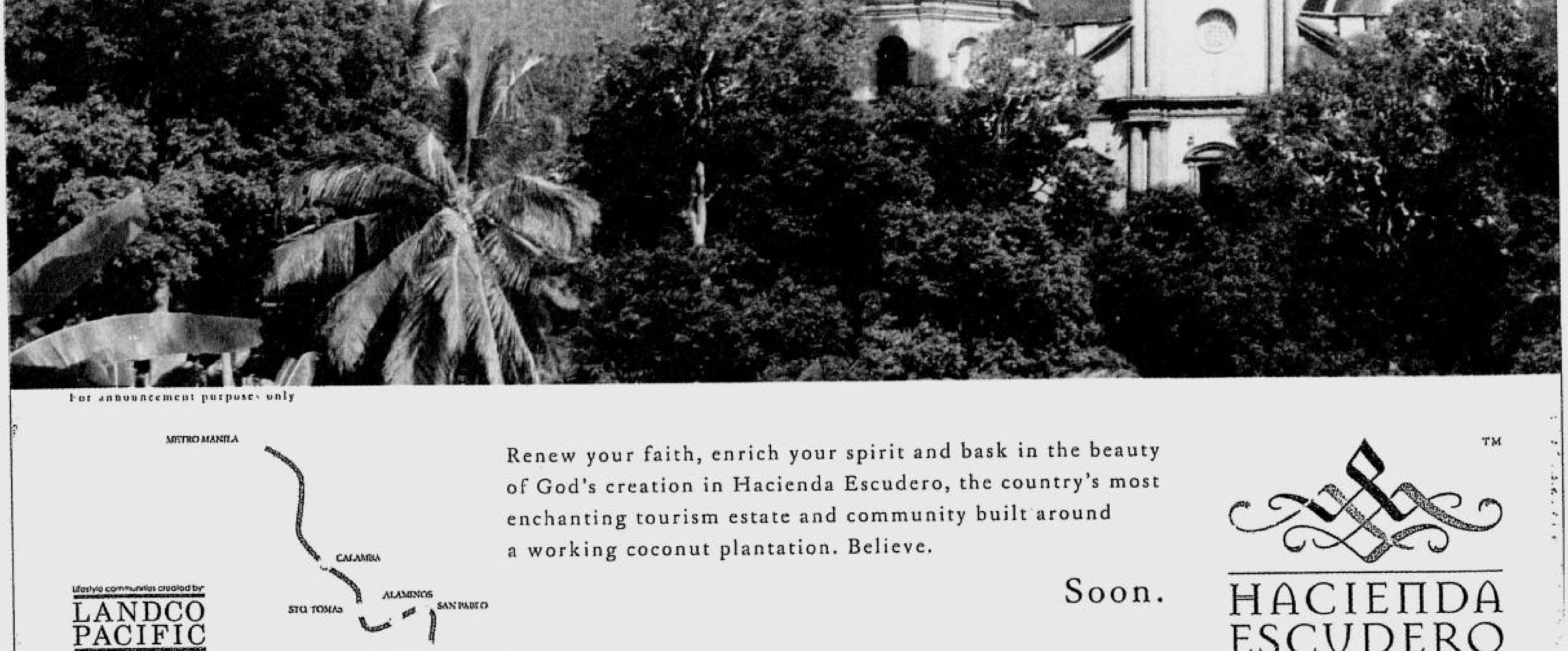

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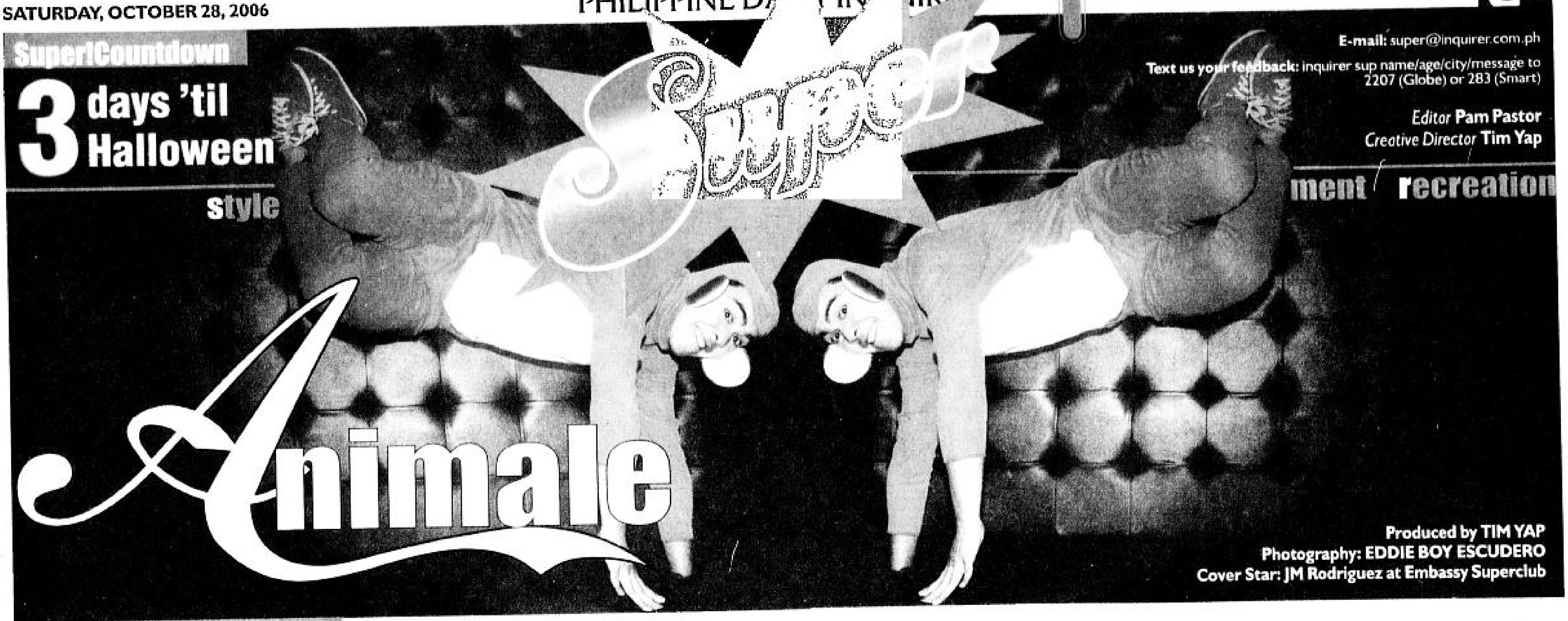
Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

Super!Countdown

3 days 'til Halloween



Animale

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO
Cover Star: JM Rodriguez at Embassy Superclub

Be kind to party animals!

page D2

TREND ALERT! Watch out for Singleringen—you'll soon be wearing one

page C2

Designer Nicholas Ghesquier and football star Hidetoshi Nakata in Manila

page D2

Super's very own costume ideas by Gino de la Paz

page D1

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Lights, Camera, Cinemanila!

CINEMANILA IS PROBABLY THE CLOSEST thing we will ever have to Cannes—minus the Hollywood movie stars and paparazzi-riddled red carpet, of course. (Save for the year they played host to Fil-Am celebrities Lou Diamond Phillips and Tia Carrere.)

This year, over 10 international films will vie for the coveted Lino Brocka Award (the local equivalent of the Palm d' Ore), while fledgling Pinoy filmmakers get a chance to slug it out in a spanking new category, Digital Lokal.

On Friday, Nov. 3, don't miss the exclusive premiere of Peter Chan's "Perhaps Love" and the Gael Garcia Bernal-starrer "The Science of Sleep," director Michel Gondry's idiosyncratic take on the nature of dreams. They will be screened at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively, at the SM Mall of Asia cinemas.

The 2006 Cinemanila International Film Festival will run from Nov. 3 to 15 at the cinemas of Greenbelt, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Mall of Asia and the NCCA Auditorium in Intramuros, Manila. Call 527-2192 loc. 406 or visit www.cinemanila.com.ph.

Tonight, check out Cream Halloween Ball 2006 feat. Thrillseekers & Johnboy Lee at the World Trade Center; Amoureux: Halloween Ball at M Café; I-ON Night: "Wicked: Mixed and Mangled" at Metrowalk Plaza; Bamboo at Eastwood Central Plaza; Vintage Metallica Night at Saguijo; Rockmoto Party at 6Underground and Campusition Night at Mag:net Café.

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more events, text 24/7 to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restos around the city. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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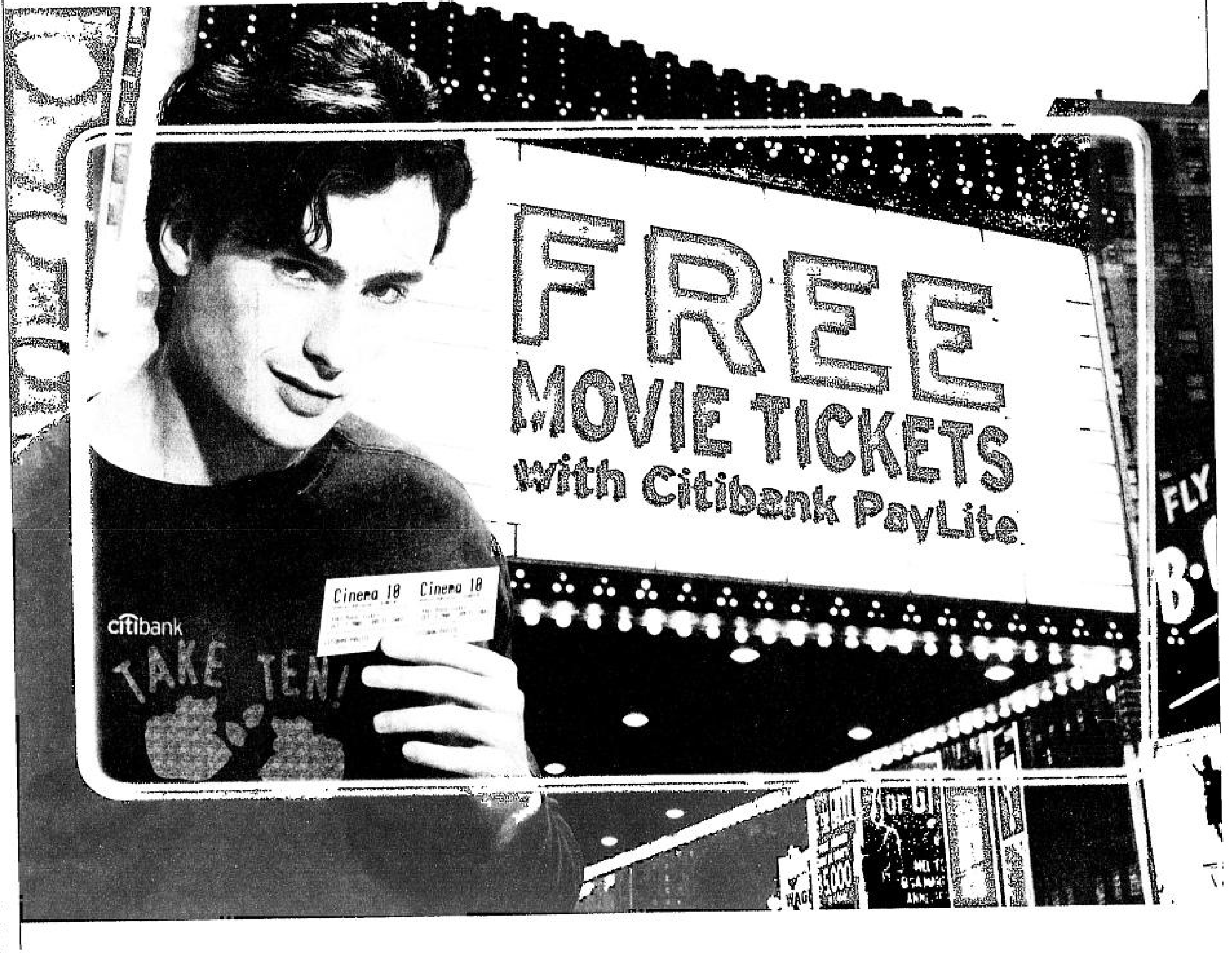

Get 2 FREE Movie Tickets for a minimum PayLite purchase of P5,000 at any establishment from October 1 to December 31, 2006! Claim your tickets at the Citibank booths in:

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3586, Series of 2006. Terms & Conditions apply. See flyers for details.

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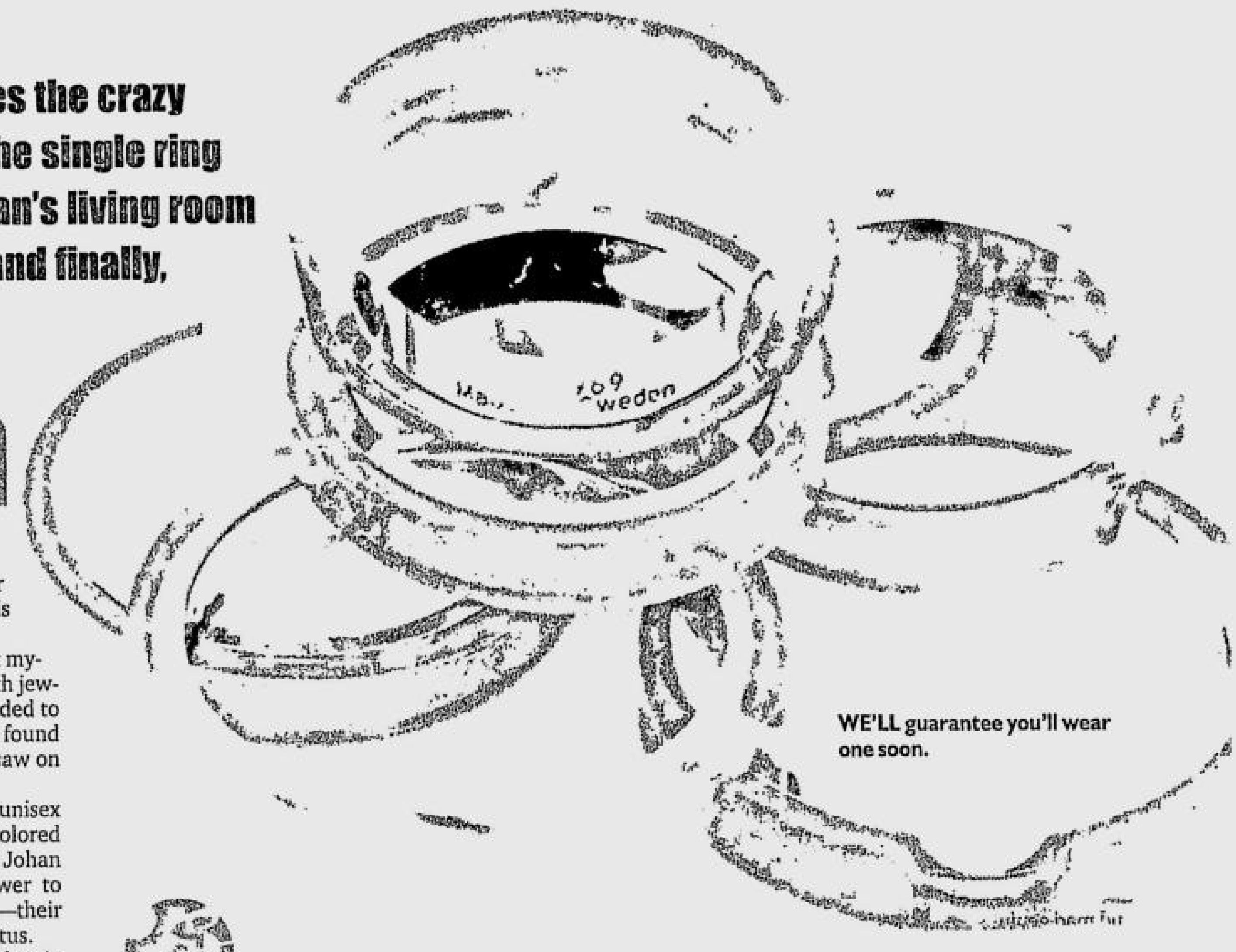


WE'LL guarantee you'll wear one soon.

By Pam Pastor

LIKE MANY BRILLIANT IDEAS, it occurred while Ricky Baizas was sitting in front of the television. "I was watching a news feature on Taiwan cable TV," he said.

The feature was on Taiwan's low birth rate—and how people have resorted to wearing single rings to find mates, get married and start a family. "I thought that was a great idea. The rings looked cool and I actually wanted one for myself. But I thought, *hay naku*, this is one of those things that we would never get here," Ricky said.

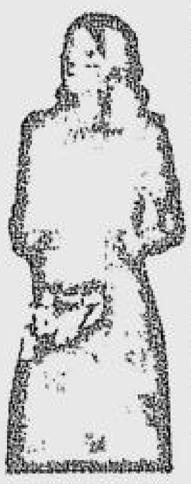
Then the light bulb flashed. "I asked myself, why not go out on a limb, take a chance and bring it here?"

And just like that, Ricky, the content development manager for Chikka.com and the voice behind Vanness Wu's Meteor Garden character on local TV, began his first serious business venture.

"At first I thought of manufacturing it myself," Ricky said. But his discussions with jeweler friends proved to be futile. He decided to turn to the Internet and that's where he found Singelringen—the exact same ring he saw on TV.

Made in Sweden, Singelringen is a unisex sterling silver ring with a turquoise-colored acrylic cover. The ring was created by Johan Wahlbäck as the single person's answer to wedding rings and engagement rings—their way to announce their independent status.

Singelringen was first sold in Sweden in 2005 and is now gaining popularity in Scandinavia, Europe, South America, the US and Asia. The ring, which was included in The Today Show's Hot Must-Haves for Fall, has been spotted on the fingers of Renée Zellweger, Natalie Portman, Juliette Lewis, Naomi Campbell, Wilmer Valderrama and Vivica Fox.



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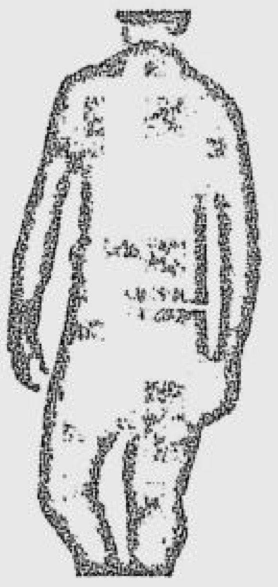

Ricky e-mailed Johan, expressing his interest to bring Singelringen to the Philippines and a positive reply came just a few days later. Johan will be visiting the country next month to explore his newest Singelringen market. Today, Singelringen is available in Schu in Glorietta 3 and Goldworks in Podium. It comes in four sizes.

And although Ricky can't wear it (he's married), you can—on your right hand, with the crescent design facing outwards as a sign of your openness or on a chain around your neck. The ring is distinct and easy to spot. "The ring looks cool, it's chic, it's fashionable," said Ricky. "But it's not just a ring. It's a message. It declares that you're open to possibilities. It doesn't mean that you're looking for a boyfriend or a girlfriend or that you're desperate. It's saying that you're okay with being single, you love being independent but that you're also ready for romance."

Each ring also has a unique seven-digit code that you can use to log into the Singelringen website www.singelringen.com and connect to the global Singelringen community which already has over 50,000 members (now that's a lot of potential mates).

And if you decide to take the plunge into a serious relationship, you can pass on your Singelringen to a proudly single friend.

The single revolution is just starting in the country—and Ricky wants to make sure it continues. "Hopefully by summer, we'll launch the bracelet, the mobile key ring, the key chain and the cologne."

Maybe in the future we'll see single mobile phones already packed with phone numbers of other singles in your area or single cars equipped with single people radar.

But for now, single people must turn to Singelringen and let their fingers do a lot of talking.

For inquiries, text 0918-9244621 or e-mail singelringenph@gmail.com.

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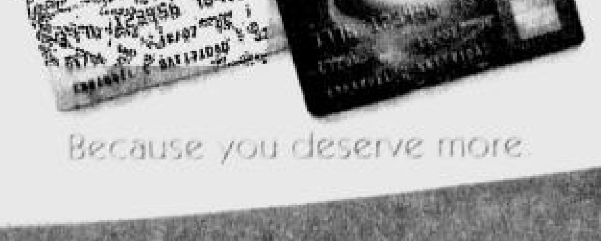


Treats and Tricks

From page C4

and streamlined, with an attractive new aluminum design and a built-in clip which makes it wearable. It features Apple's pioneering shuffle feature that lets music fans get a continuous mix of their favorite songs anywhere they go.

So how you like them Apples? Go ahead and indulge.

Watch closely: The Prestige

Abracadabra! We can't just say it enough—"The Prestige" rocks! Christian Bale and Hugh Jackman play two rival magicians whose obsession with their craft and revenge lead to extraordinary consequences. Set during turn-of-the-century Victorian London, there are more tricks and sleight-of-hand twists in the plot to keep you riveted until the end. This is the perfect Halloween treat—with mysterious disappearances, doppelgangers, murders, and mad genius scientists.

The script, based on a book of the same title, was superbly written by director Christopher Nolan ("Memento" and "Batman Begins") and his brother Jonah. It was outlined like a magic trick itself, and just when you thought you've figured it out, you'll just as soon be in for a surprise. Oh, and did we mention the great David Bowie plays the scientific genius Nikola Tesla?

This is the kind of film that would keep you discussing among friends over and over, long after the credits roll.

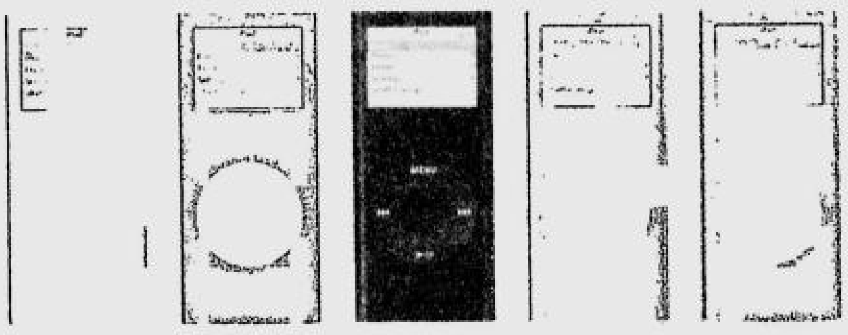
Bamboo Lounge Boracay

For those of you who've hit the holiday button early by heading to Boracay for the Halloween break, we highly recommend you discover this hideaway tucked away in an off-the-beaten path.

Bamboo Lounge serves up what's perhaps the best Chinese cuisine on the island. What makes this place even more special (and to some a jealously guarded secret) is its serene, beautifully designed interiors—think Buddha with one too many sangrias (which is incidentally a must-try on the drink menu). It's the perfect chilling space while you're feasting on the Chilli Garlic Chicken. The lounge likewise lulls you to forget time and stay as long as you want, with its chill out music emanating from the speakers.

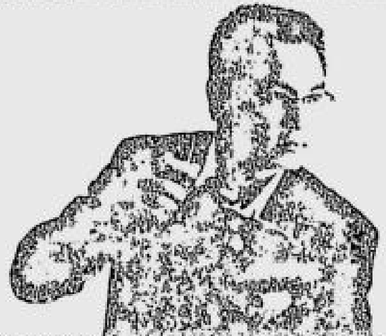
Treat your taste buds to some of the must-eats in the menu: Bong's Oriental Salad, Spare Ribs in Red sauce, and the Lotus Fried Rice.

Bamboo Lounge is located at Freckle's Resort, Bolabog Road, Boracay Island (between White Beach and Bolabog beach). E-mail them at frecklesboracay@yahoo.com



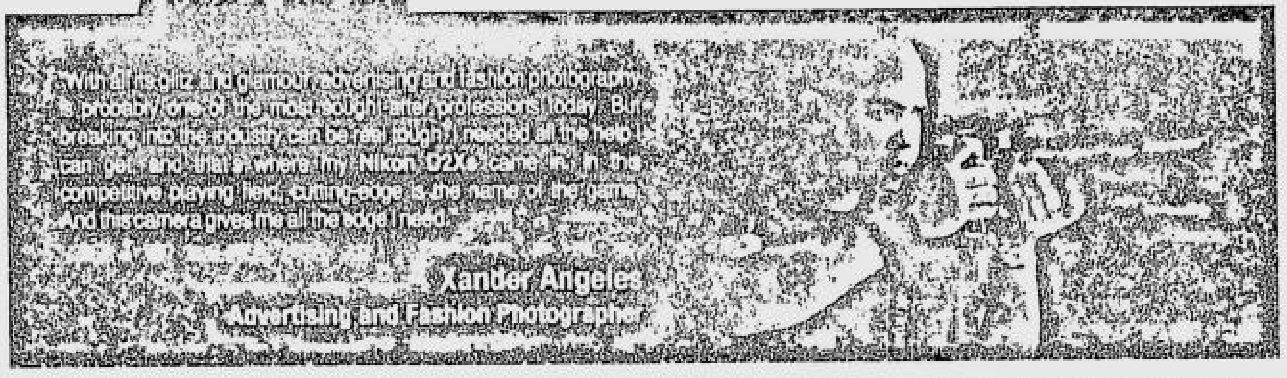
"Editorial photography is real hard work. I use a wide range of lighting and equipment on-site and work in all sorts of environments products, food and automobile. Wherever my job takes me, I've got my **Nikon D200**. It offers incredible creative possibilities that make my work, and my client's profile, stand out from the crowd."

Kai Huang
Editorial Photographer



"Wedding photography demands a lot of confidence and expertise. After all, it's your job to give a couple some great memories to cherish for a lifetime. That's why I rely on my camera's speed and great white balance because there's only ONE chance to get those perfect shots and with my **Nikon D80**, I'm confident that I'll capture those fleeting once-in-a-lifetime moments. And keep all the smiles coming."

Lito Sy
Wedding Photographer



"With all its glitz and glamour, advertising and fashion photography is probably one of the most sought-after professions today. But breaking into the industry can be real tough. I needed all the help I can get, and that's where my Nikon D2Xs came in. In this competitive playing field, cutting-edge is the name of the game. And this camera gives me all the edge I need."

Xander Angeles
Advertising and Fashion Photographer

the Big3
The new series from Nikon

Creative. Cutting-edge. Perfect. Three words to describe the three new digital SLRs from Nikon. From the range-topping D2Xs that packs 12.4 megapixels, to the D80 and D200 with 10.2 megapixels Nikon DX format CCD sensor. Powered by Nikon's most advanced image processing engine that delivers higher performance and greater precision, producing natural-looking images with realistic transitions between colors and tones. For professionals who know their camera and love their job, it's simply the only choice.

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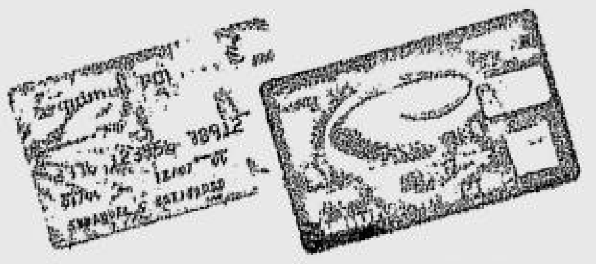

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SUPER! SELECTIONS

Treats and Tricks

By Tals Diaz

FROM TECHNO-LUSTS AND EPIcurian finds in the beach to magic acts you can't miss, check out what's been catching our fancy these days.

GMask unmasked!

Seized with technophilia—the unexplainable, unshakeable love for all your gadgets? Then head over to GMask and get with the design of the times. It's like giving your beloved cell phone, iPod, laptop or PDA a cool tattoo that's uniquely you.

So what is it? It's a wrap, a beauty wrap in fact. GMask is actually a superior Japanese protective film that's wrapped around your gadget. A specially-trained staff wraps it by hand to cover the entire surface through a wrapping process by our specially-trained staff! It is wrapped by hand to cover the entire surface of the gadget, or that portion that you want to cover, to make it resistant to scratch-resistant, weather and sweat-proof.

Play around and express yourself with a whole array of designs and colors to choose from. And for those who simply want a little protection for their machine, you can simply opt for the clear protective cover. So go ahead now and run for cover!

GMask is located at Glóretta 2, Mall of Asia, Robinson's Galleria, Alabang Town Center, The Block SM North Edsa, and Greenbelt 1.

Now Playing
1 of 14
MENU

C163665_PB

Apple temptations

Calling all technosexuals! Meet the newest iPod, which will once again revolutionize your digital lifestyle. The new iPod features a 60 percent brighter and more vibrant 2.5-inch color display that's perfect for watching home movies, photos and podcasts. It also has a longer battery life—making it perfect for watching movies from the palm of your hand.

"The world's best digital player has evolved into the world's most popular portable video player too," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. The 30GB model features up to 14 hours of video playback, and the 80GB model features up to 20 hours of battery life.

And for those who believe random is the new order, Apple has unveiled the newest iPod Shuffle—which is now the world's smallest digital music player! Yep, the Shuffle is now smaller

TREATS/ C2

Effective control of blood sugar, hunger and weight for diabetics

A breakthrough in diabetic nutrition, Glucerna SR is the number one nutritional formula clinically proven to help normalize blood sugar levels.

Spaced Release Carbohydrate Blend Unlike other carbohydrate sources which produce a quick spike in blood sugar after meals, Glucerna SR supports the spaced or periodic release of glucose throughout the length of the gastrointestinal tract.

Effective Hunger Control Registering only 19 on the glycemic index scale, Glucerna SR effectively moderates the highs and lows of after-meal blood glucose response.

SPACED RELEASE
Release of blood glucose is controlled throughout the digestive tract ensuring even absorption by the body

Complete with 28 Vitamins and Minerals A whole range of essential nutrients as well as additional levels of Vitamins E and B6, Folic Acid and Chromium help maintain good diabetic health.

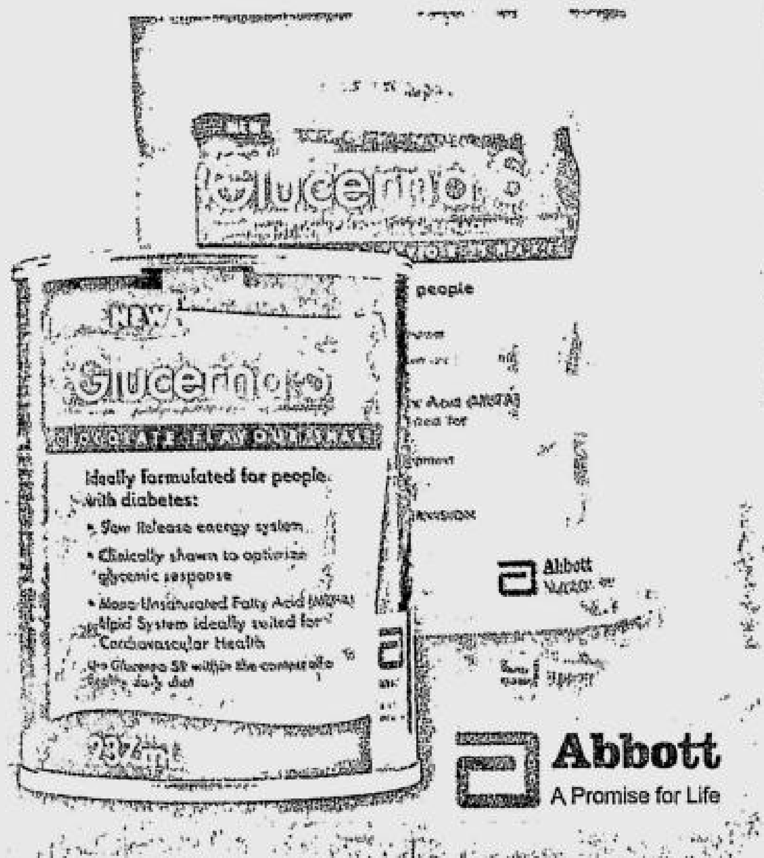
High Monounsaturated Fatty Acids Glucerna SR helps lower blood cholesterol and promotes a healthy cardiovascular system.

Enriched with Fiber for healthy digestion that can help promote weight reduction.

GLUCERNA SR is a complete and balanced low-calorie nutritional formula for people with diabetes. Along with proper diet, exercise and medication, this delicious drink in buttery caramel-vanilla and creamy chocolate flavors should be an essential part of the diabetic's healthy daily meal plan.

Patient • Doctor • Glucerna SR

Ask your doctor about diabetes management. For free nutrition counseling, call the DIABETES HOTLINE 689-0444 or the National Toll Free Hotline 1-800-108-433427 or email hcs.ph@abbott.com from Mondays thru Fridays, 8am - 5pm.


NEW Glucerna SR
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"With my diabetes under control, I've got my life back!"

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Mrs. Joenalyn Semira
Financial Adviser, Wife, Glucerna SR User

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1126 s. 2006

Good Nutrition for Diabetics is now just a Phone Call Away

FOOD is like fuel needed for proper functioning of the body. While eating too much will have adverse effects on overall health, inadequate food intake may result in nutritional deficiencies or illnesses. Thus, a well-balanced diet is key to maintaining good health However, eating nutritional food and preparing proper meals may not be a simple matter for those with special dietary needs. For elderly, diabetic and post-stroke patients, maintaining good nutrition and creative meal planning may prove more challenging than usual.

To promote proper nutrition, Abbott Nutrition International has set up a nutrition service program called "Home Care Solutions". By calling a toll-free number, individuals can avail of free nutritional counseling and regular diet plans from licensed nutritionists and dieticians. As an innovative medical nutrition company, Abbott has pioneered in high quality medical nutritional formulas like Glucerna SR and Ensure, two leading brands widely recommended by doctors and nutritionists worldwide.

"Our mission is to provide innovative and high-quality health care solutions through a variety of health products and support services," says Rene Bastl, general manager of Abbott Nutrition International. "The Home Care Solutions (HCS) program works towards fulfilling that mission."

Currently with a database of approximately 7,500 members, the number of Abbott's hotline callers continues to grow. "Most of our callers have diabetes," says Vanessa Orillano, nutritionist and coordinator of Abbott's toll-free service. "Diabetics have special dietary needs to be able to maintain normal blood sugar levels and this is where our counseling helps them. The diabetic individual cannot just eat anything in uncontrolled amounts. He or she has to be particularly aware of a food's glycemic index or GI."

Simply put, glycemic index is the value assigned to food based on its effect on after-meal blood sugar levels. High-GI foods elevate blood sugar levels more rapidly than low-GI foods. A low-GI diet can help control blood sugar levels and reduce or maintain weight, and promote the feeling of satiety or fullness.

Callers of Abbott's Home Care Solutions also include patients with hypertension and heart disease who usually inquire about sodium-restricted, low-fat and low-cholesterol diets. "The challenges of maintaining proper nutrition are especially magnified in convalescing patients, especially when they are discharged from the hospital and sent home. For them, proper feeding is essential to quick recovery," says Orillano.

Likewise, the elderly and their caregivers are encouraged to call the Abbot Hotline. While the common belief is that malnutrition occurs mainly in children, the elderly are also prone to malnutrition because of trouble in chewing or swallowing and a diminished sense of smell and taste that lessen the appetite. In addition, the elderly may have physical problems such as Parkinson's Disease that may make eating difficult, or may suffer from a low emotional state that may likewise affect food intake.

Take this Healthy Lifestyle Nutrition Test to assess your nutritional state:
1. Does your family have a history of diabetes?
2. Do you experience frequent hunger, thirst and urination?
3. Do you have a sedentary lifestyle and have no time for exercise or other physical activities?
4. Have you experienced drastic weight loss without trying to in the past month?
5. Are you a mother who has given birth to a baby weighing more than 9 pounds?
6. Are you 40 years old and up?
7. Are you overweight or obese?
8. Do you have high blood pressure?
9. Do you have numbness or tingling in your feet?
10. Have you been previously identified with borderline or high blood sugar?
11. Do you always feel tired for no apparent reason?

If you answered yes only once, you have little or low risk for diabetes. A score of 2 to 4 points indicates moderate risk and calls for dietary and lifestyle changes Five to ten points, however, indicates high risk. You are advised to immediately seek medical advice or consult a health care provider.

Whatever your nutritional status, you may contact the Abbott Home Care Solutions hotline at 689-0444, or call the toll-free number 1-800-108-433-HCS, Mondays through Fridays, from 8 am to 5 pm, for free dietary consultations. Aside from nutritional advice, callers get free membership, a regular newsletter and special discounts. Remember: nutrition awareness or diabetes is just a phone call away! ■

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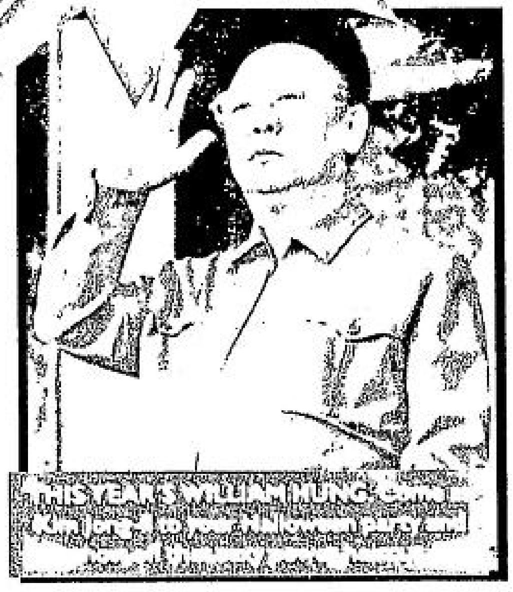
FEAR FACTORY. It's Halloween time, kiddies! Time to bring out your inner Bai Ling!

Trick or freak!

Or what to wear to your next Halloween costume drama



THIS YEAR'S [illegible]

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

"THERE ARE THREE THINGS I HAVE learned never to discuss with people: Religion, politics, and the Great Pumpkin."—Linus Van Pelt, "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"

Throughout my entire theme-party-attending life, I've always found it challenging to dress up in costume. Year after year, the pressure reaches a Bai Ling-worthy splendor come Halloween, once strictly occult but now apparently the recycling bin of all holidays. When else are you encouraged—nay, expected-to rock baggy superhero tights and slutty nurse uniforms? The Witching Night, of course—when even a Santa Claus outfit, an Easter Bunny suit, or your graduation toga are welcome to the freak show. Compared to other red-letter days, the eve of Oct. 31st is so infatuated with all things campy and fetishistic I'm convinced it gave birth to "Project Runway."

This same time not too long ago, my Mexican roommate and I decided to swing by a Halloween party at our university pub. We decided not—I repeat, not—to come as "The Crow" rejects, unlike the whole world and his uncle. So in a flash of beer-induced inspiration, we chose to dress up as—tada!—the fallen World Trade Center towers, complete with crumpled paper airplanes and cutouts of people jumping out of our sides.

We decided against it, however, after a female pal hinted that the whole gag was a bit (meaning mesmerizingly) crass, even by our standards. So like Fight Club, we swore not to talk about it and cruised to the party in our non-creative outfits: Me as last-minute roadkill and him as, well, a Mexican. We didn't win any prizes, not even a warm Stella Artois. Drat.

Halloween high jinks

For sure, the Halloween high jinks continued last year, though now they were clearly not of my doing. In Los Angeles, amidst peeps done up as giant tampons, I spotted a few dudes decked out as—hold your breath—iPod ads. Part performance art, part guerilla marketing, the guys painted themselves black and walked around with primary-colored backdrops. To complete the popumentary, they paused and posed awkwardly with their all-white gadgets. I tell you, it was awesome. Too bad I didn't think about it first.

See, in these post-reality TV times, it's not enough to go trick or treating as another generic ghoul or unexciting vampire. One's Halloween costume must now balance statement and subtext, bringing on uneasiness in certain people while creating a sense of astonishment in others. And kids, here's how.

Costume party to costume drama

To up the All Hallow's Eve ante, think of everything not as a mere costume party but as a costume drama. Though the term is normally used within the context of boring Merchant Ivory films, I now give you permission to do whatever you please with it as I have.

To start, why not disguise yourself as a dictator du jour? Though fairly reliable costume options, Saddam Hussein, Osama Bin-Laden, and George W. Bush are terribly passé and are no longer viable indicators of one's satirical venom. Take the cue from MadTV (Bobby Lee rules!) and come instead as Kim Jong-il. Not only will you hit two trends (nukes and Koreans) with one classy stone, you'll also wind up with a bizarrely sexy power haircut. But if humiliating yourself till the next century is not a to-do on your list, ghetto-ize the North Korean punchline with a few gold chains and some grillz. The result? Kim Jong-Chill, yo.

Another painfully obvious though hysterical choice would be to spoof Hollyweirdos. The first person that comes to mind is the alien baby, Suri Cruise. Just cut out her mug from one of those overrated Annie Liebowitz Vanity Fair shots, blow it up, and use as a mask. To drive the point home at your upcoming Halloween rager, jump on the couch like Daddy Tom (a.k.a. The Most Annoying Man In Hollywood) and make sad 'puppy-dog faces like Mommy Kate (a.k.a. Joey Potter). At the same time. It may be cruel to make fun of infants, but hey, whatevz.

Fear factory

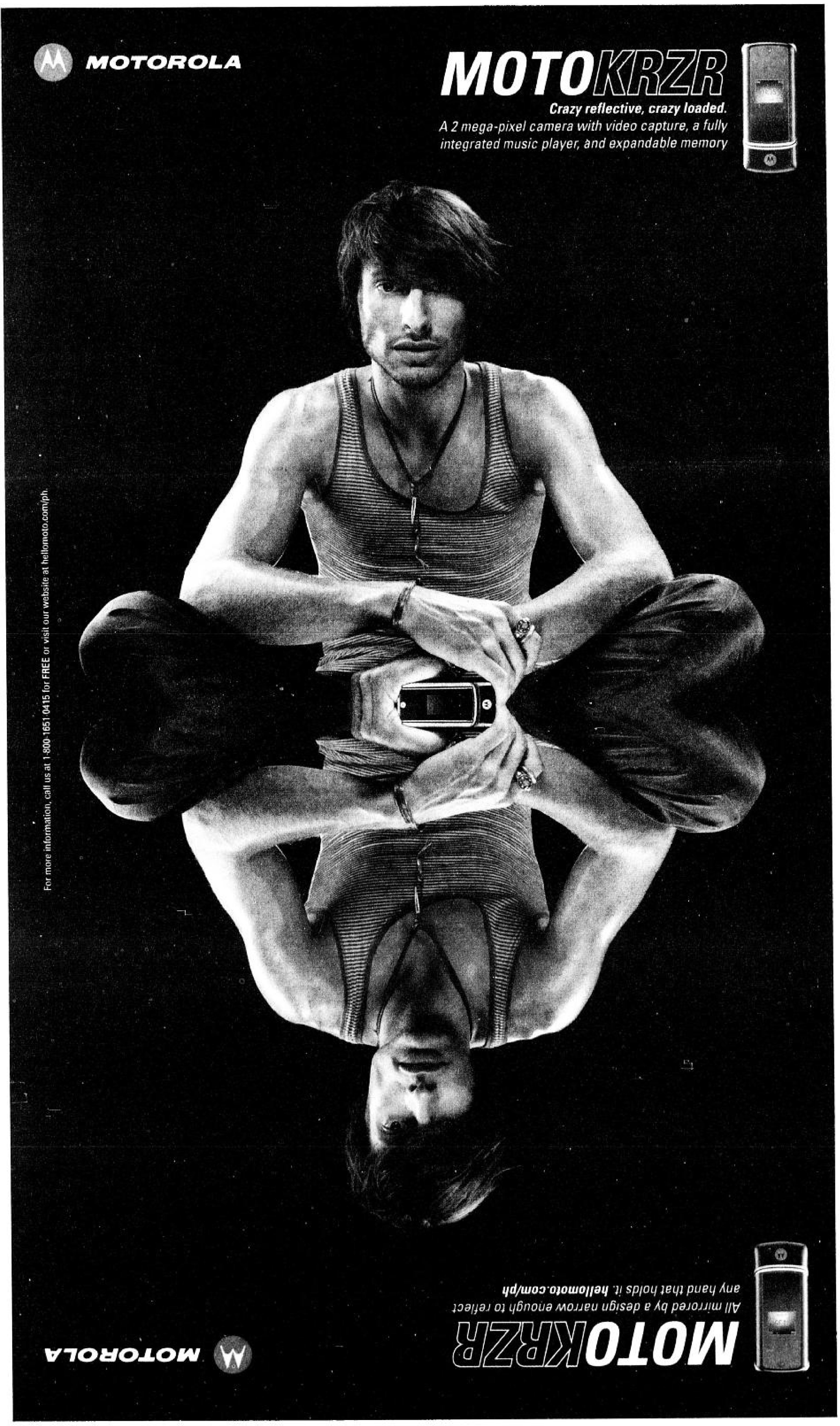
Naturally, once you get rolling with the creative Halloween juice, you shouldn't stop. After all, the feast's fun/stupid dress code isn't limited to parodies of people. Animals and inanimate objects are also fair game and deserve to be lavished with our evil attention.

Since the environment-especially the state of our seas-remains a compelling social and political concern, turn up as Nemo. And to give things a current affairs twist, I suggest smearing your Nemo-clad self with black bunker fuel. (Hey, if Shakira can do it—see "La Tortura"—so can you.) Think of it as your own theatrical tribute to the Guimaras oil spill.

Witch-slapped

And last, to get everyone to sober up and debate on other pressing matters, I recommend putting in a cameo as a billboard. (Coming as any outdoor signage would do, but the poorer the art direction, the better.) For some dramedy, collapse sporadically at the slightest provocation and pin down party peeps who may or may not be in your way. Complete the trifecta and ask two of your closest buds to come as a supertyphoon (use your imagination) and an old bus. Your opinionated Halloween production will bring new meaning to the words "collateral" and "damage."

If you choose to follow my words of wisdumb, two things may happen by the time the night is over. On the one hand, you may end up getting witch-slapped. This is especially the case if you sought your spooks in Ayala Alabang, where kids were ordered to say "God bless you!" instead of "Trick or treat!" sometime ago. On the other, you just may become a certified Halloween legend. Who knows? Because of your lead, costume stores may stock up on less predictable outfits a year from now. Till then, when kids run around dressed as one-eyed kittens (or K-Fed) instead of, like, Thomas the Train and Friends, I wish you good luck with the youthful mischief. Boo, y'all!



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THEY ALL OWN A MOTOKRZR. MANILA ZOO-PER FAMILY in full animalistic attire.

BIRTHDAY CHICK. Jenni Epperson, you are the one.

HOT-DOG. Dog-day evening with Tim Yap.

CRAVING FOR LAMBCHOPS. Tina Tinio lambs you.

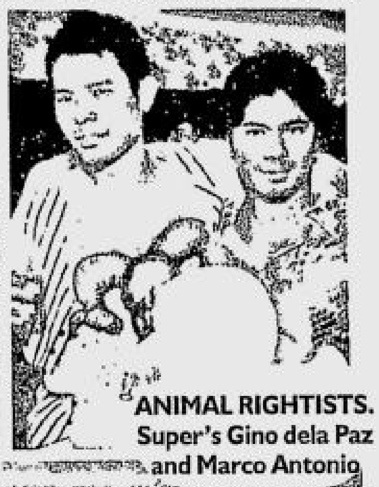
FINDING TESSA. Tessa Dragon in her aquarium.

MOUSE PAD. Bianca Valerio is purr-fect.

ARF-ARF. Michelle Pamintuan has great pedigree.

COOSOME COUGAR. Tina Tinio, soon to leave for Singapore with Lex Ledesma.

SWAN LAKE. Paolo Gonzales and David Milan



ANIMAL RIGHTISTS. Super's Gino dela Paz and Marco Antonio

MAKE-UP MAVEN AND MUSE. Juan Sarte III and Heart Evangelista

Be kind to party animals

COSMO BITES. Ianne Evangelista and hubby Howie

TWIN PEAKS. Keanna Reeves and Eddie Boy Escudero.

MONKEY BUSINESS. Pepe Diokno represents the new Manila.

LEDGE GIRLS. Xandra Ramos and Gayle Gozum of YRYS

Tonight, Nicholas Ghesquire and Japanese football star Hidetoshi Nakata will be the special guests in the Embassy Superclub VVVIP Halloween ball.

Tim Yap

THIS HALLOWEEN season, I encourage you to unleash the animal within. Growl your way to a costumed revelry and purr your way on the frivolity parade.

Yes Gucci Gang, you are the easy targets to raver's rants because it's all too easy to throw the pie at the clown. As clowns, we should have a sense of humor because what doesn't destroy us, makes us stronger. In the end, we win because we learn more.

Okay, now on the topic of Halloween (for some of us, everyday IS Halloween), gear up and get ready for role play. It's the season of the year where you are not going to be accused as a **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** wannabe just for showing up over-the-top. Not to flatter myself, I know of some people who have already raided my closet just to come as … ME this spooktacular season.

Well, there are tons of thrilling parties tonight and onwards this sizzling season. At the World Trade Center is the Cream Halloween Ball by Big Fish, their last collaboration together. For as everyone in the industry knows, **Domini** and **Joanne Primero** have gone separate ways with **Pixie Cheah** and **Ricky Draaker**. Pixie gets to keep the Big Fish name while Ricky set up Activ8 records, which takes care of the licensing of foreign electronic brands, like DEfected in the House, which Big Fish is collaborating with party group Superfly this Dec2. Another party to watch out for is French superstar **Antoine Clamaran** this Nov. 24 by the new party group Step Up productions (they're the ones bringing the best acts for 2007) to watch out for.

The celebrity set

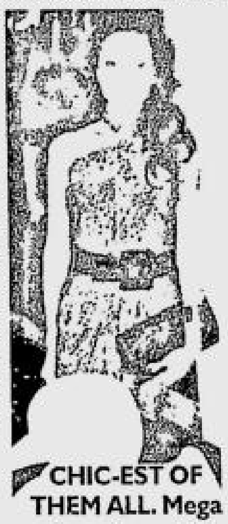
If the sweaty punters are gonna crowd around the World Tarde Center, the celebrity set are all gonna be at Embassy Superclub. The Fluxxe dudes are invading Embassy Cuisine while while at the club, the Halloween Costume Cartoon Ball of the season, "Saturday Fun Machine (remember your childhood?)" happens tonight as well. Come as your faavorite cartoon character—animé, animation, The Simpsons, Transformers, Voltes V, etc!

And who are you going to party with? Just *THE* **Nicholas Ghesquire** and Japanese football star **Hidetoshi Nakata** as super special guests in the Superclub VVVIP. No costume, no entry—unless you're Hidetoshi or Nicholas. Beat that.

The winner of the best in costume at our Embassy halloween ball gets an all-expense paid trip birthday party for the winner and his or her friends. Again, beat that.

On this page is such a party, where we treated Friday Fashion contributing editor and *shopingera* slash mabuhaygirl.multiply.com diva **Jenni Epperson** to a "Be Kind to Party Animals party." Jenni played herself, as hot chick, **Tina Tinio** played herself as lamb chops and **Celine Lopez** played pink bunny. We all got our costumes from Tokyo and decided on the theme of the party right there and then. And boy, it's always fun to bring out the animal side in you.

So tonight, get out of your cage—the world is a zoo and animals like you (and me) rule.



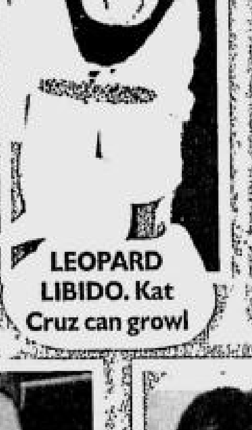
CHIC-EST OF THEM ALL. Mega in motion with Carla Sibal.

DOUBLE VISION. The dual life of Robbie Carmona

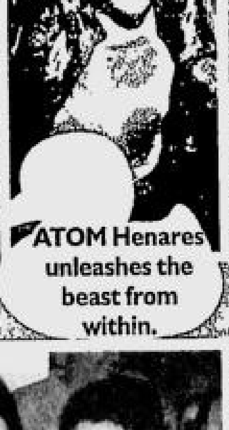
STYLISH SEDUCTION. Charina Sarte, Maureen Disini and Bambi Hernandez

POSTER PARTY COUPLE. Norman and Astrud Crisologo

I AM NOT A BOAR. Design doctor Miguel Rosales

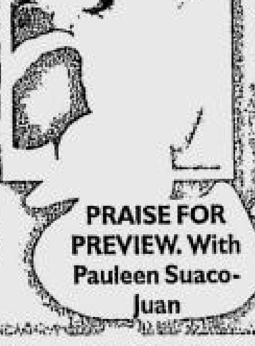


LEOPARD LIBIDO. Kat Cruz can growl



ATOM Henares unleashes the beast from within.

TOM AND JENNI. Happy together, forever



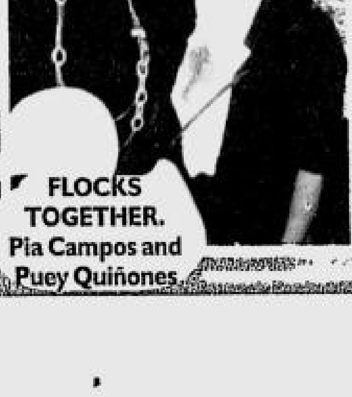
PRAISE FOR PREVIEW. With Pauleen Suaco-Juan

CONSUMER BEHAVIOR. With Jackie Cohen-Antonio

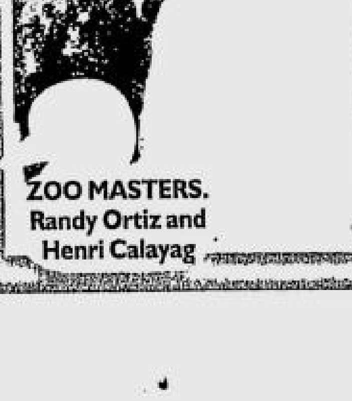
SAVAGE SIBLINGS. Bubbles and Paolo Paraiso

FELINE FATALE FOREVER. Mimi and Juliet Tan

BIRDS OF PARADISE. Leica Carpo and Katrina Holigores



FLOCKS TOGETHER. Pia Campos and Puey Quiñones



ZOO MASTERS. Randy Ortiz and Henri Calayag

IMPORTED GOODS. Casey Clogg with friend Antonio

MANNEQUIN TOO! Celine Lopez is svelte, sexy and sassy

PLAIN AND PRINTED: Roxanne Farillas, Marian Nuñez, Tim Yap and Celine Lopez

PHOTO BU[illegible]: JR Isaac, Mark Litonjua and Pepper Teehankee

THE PLAINS OF [illegible]

A new 'Plain' takes off

DURING THE AFERMATH OF the "Milenyo" storm, only three billboards withstood the wrath of Mother Nature. As soon as the winds stopped howling, three giant advertisements stood loud and proud on the main strip of billboard boulevard otherwise known as Edsa.

Kate Hudson smiled brightly (of course, she's in sunny L.A.), Our Lady of Guadalupe towered over her favorite watering hole Cafe Lupe and the double vision of what seemed to be the spitting image of my best friend.

Yup, you got it right, that's **Celine Lopez** and her evil twin looming over our driving consciousness, endorsing Plains and Prints and also taking over the slot that used to be occupied by bling queen **Gretchen Barretto**, who also remains as Plains and Prints endorser. The **Mark Nicdao-Henri Calayag-Vince** and **Liz Uy** collaboration could not have come at a better time when the holiday season is fast approaching. According to our Super! countdown, it is now exactly 58 days till Christmas, and don we should our gay apparel.

Celine had a hand in helping brand owner **Roxanne Farillas** brighten up Plains and Prints' holiday collection. As I watched Celine strut down the ramp in matte gold, I could only stand back, applaud—and realize how proud I am for I have witnessed her style evolution from plains to prints and beyond. *Tim Yap*

ROSSI'S GARDEN: Rhett Eala and Assunta de Rossi

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MOTHER AND SON: [illegible] Nunez

FASHION AND FUNCTION: [illegible]

ABSOLUTE LOOK: Marc[illegible] Crespo and Faith Amigo

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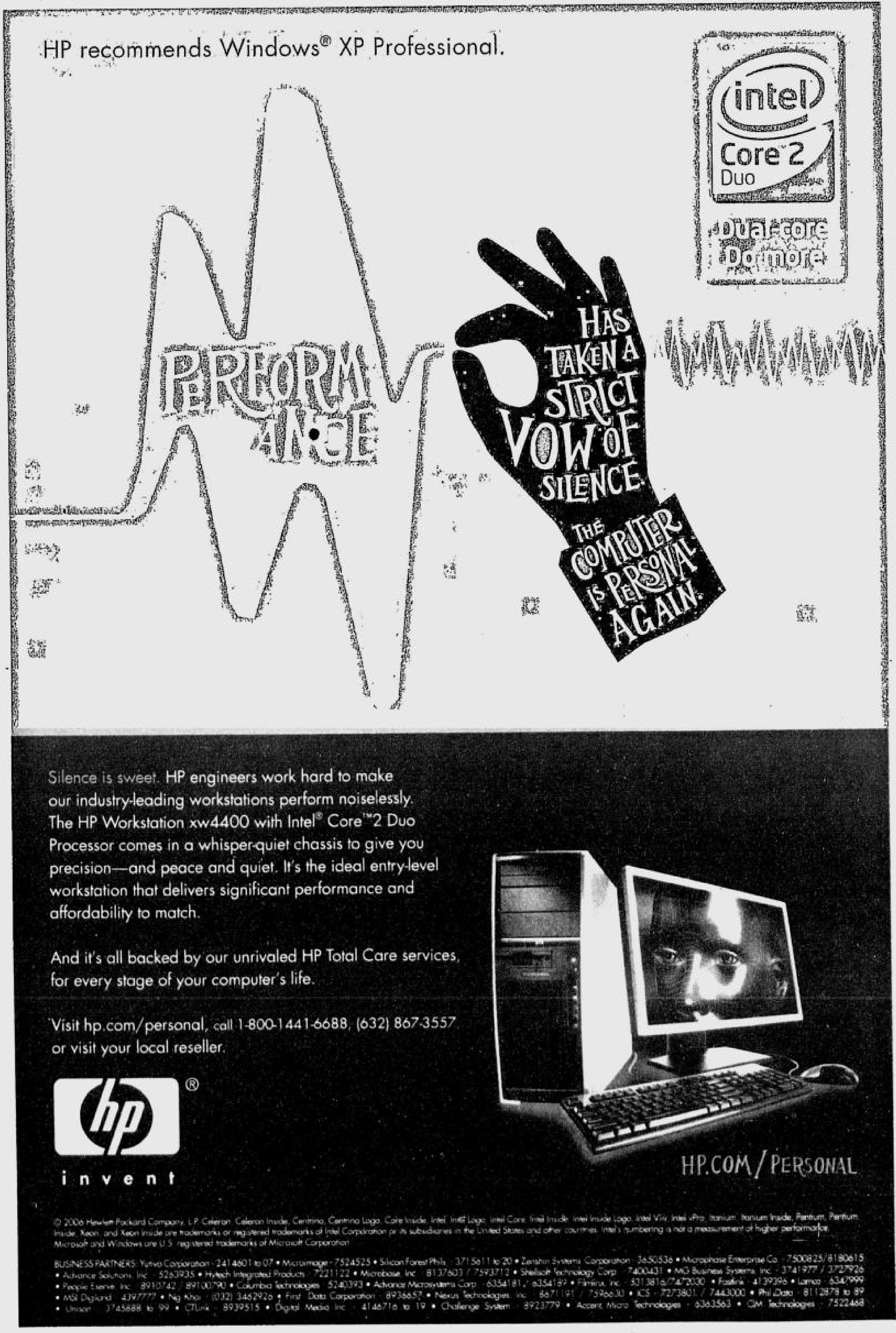
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Take snapshots of your Halloween haunts with this.

CHAMPION CLICKERS. Jun Nicholas, Kodak's Hedda Kison, Maurice Arcache, Phoemela Barranda, Kodak's Angie Fransisco, Raymond Albert and Tim Yap

TINSELTOWN SHOT. Valerie de los Santos, Paolo Paraiso and Mylene Dizon with baby Tomas posing this early

SUPER! MANUAL, ETC. Sam Oh, RJ Ledesma, David Milan with Kodak's Romulo Parajin

Click click bang bang!

Text and photos by David Milan

AT THE LAUNCH OF Kodak's latest and snazziest set of cameras, they gathered a bunch of celebrities, models, and media personalities in a role-reversing contest. Instead of being the ones under the flash bulbs, they were made to play and display their new Kodak V705. Everyone got to play photographer-for-a-day during the Kodak V-Series Celebrity Shoot-Out contest held at MCafe in Greenbelt. The snapping games involved competing for the best shots in categories like panoramic shot, perfect touch, bluetooth capability, ultra-wide, most colorful photo, 10x optical zoom and TV action prints—all these as part of the fab features of Kodak's latest V-Series cameras.

The big three

The Kodak Easyshare V705 is the world's smallest ultra-wide angle optical zoom digital camera. With the V705, consumers can get closer and see the intricate details when composing a shot with the 5x optical zoom range. The camera also automatically adjusts its settings when choosing from 22 scenes and three color modes. The Kodak Easyshare V603 Zoom Digital Camera is designed for people who want a small, stylish camera packed with innovative features to enhance the photography experience.

Camera jargon aside, the latest in V-series line of camera, the V603 features exciting digital advancements wrapped in a sleek camera body, while refining true to Kodak's signature ease-of-use. This writer partook in the games and although we didn't take home the plum, we enjoyed K-holing with the Kodak camera.

For the technophiles in us, read on: The latest in Kodak's stable of luscious lenses is the Kodak Easyshare V610 Dual Lens Digital Camera. It is the world's smallest 10x (38-380 mm equivalent) optical zoom camera at less than an inch thick. Using innovative Kodak-Retina Dual Lens technology, this nifty, pocket-sized V610 combines two Schneider-Kreuznach C Variogon all-glass, non-protruding prism lenses to deliver a long zoom range—a first for a small camera. Before, everybody wanted it big—now the smaller, the better. At least in cameras.

The shoot-out day ended as the photogenic and camera-ready team of Phoemela Baranda, Mauriche Arcache, Tim Yap and Juddha Paolo won the contest and took home these top of the line cameras.

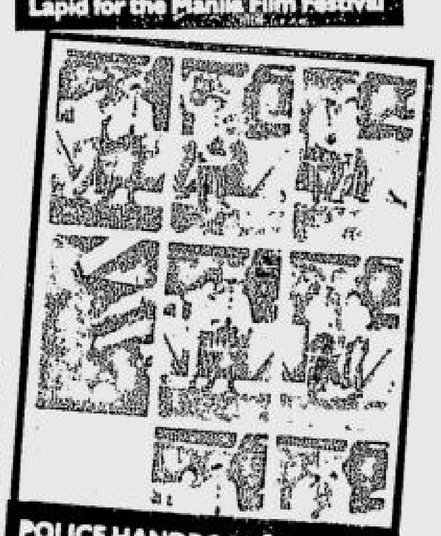
After them, I think it's your turn to pose and pout for your closeup. Ready, get set, click.

WAZZUP, GUY THING! JOHN Joe Joseph and Tim Yap.

RATED K. Kodak's heartthrob of a country GM Raymond Albert

JUDDHA BLESS YOU. Juddha Paolo loves his Kodak.

SHOOTING SCHEDULE. Angie Francisco and Phoemela Barranda, soon to star with Lito Lapid for the Manila Film Festival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NOW SHOWING

Folk tales and urban legends live on

"THE GRUDGE 2." Intersecting storylines in fractured chronology.

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Grudge 2"

D: Takashi Shimizu
S: Sarah Michelle Gellar, Amber Tamblyn, Jennifer Beals

THE WRATH OF EVIL ALWAYS lingers—especially if it keeps churning out good business at the box office. Using intersecting storylines incoherently strung together in fractured chronology, Takashi Shimizu's technically proficient sequel lacks originality and soul.

But, for viewers who haven't seen any of the film series' five (!) previous big-screen incarnations, this cautionary tale about domestic violence and retribution can still send shivers down the spine:

The vengeful curse lives on two years after American exchange student, Karen (Sarah Michelle Gellar), burns down the haunted house in Tokyo, where the gruesome story of Kayako (Takako Fuji), the long-haired woman; the wide-eyed blue boy, and their conspicuous black cat began.

This time, Karen's sister, Aubrey (Amber Tamblyn), flies to Japan and teams up with Eason (Edison Chen), a handsome but ineffectual photojournalist, to solve the mystery that drove her estranged sister to a psychiatric facility.

In parallel stories, three naughty, nosy high school girls satisfy their fascination for the macabre by exploring the condemned mansion near their school in Tokyo, while Trish (Jennifer Beals) and her stepson (Matthew Knight) endure secretive, hooded neighbors and a dimly-lit, new flat in Chicago as they come to terms with a troubled past.

Soon, they all learn that curiosity doesn't just kill cats, it also vanquishes clueless people who can't keep their noses out of situations that don't concern them!

This formulaic, slickly produced yarn, staged in brisk, J-horror fashion, features fine performances from Beals, Knight and Gellar—who can't seem to shake off her Buffy-meets-ghosts cred (she will next be seen in another thriller, "The Return").

The film's first act begins with a promising collage of seemingly unrelated narrative strands—a directorial device that fizzles out 20 minutes into the movie. It's hard to believe Shimizu couldn't come up with new ideas six years after "Juon" first exploded on the big screen. But, originality and concept take the back seat when the dough keeps coming—and coming.

"Barang"

D: Neal Tan
S: Juliana Palermo, Jay Manalo, Jaclyn Jose, Liza Lorena

No doubt about it, our country is rich in history and folklore. In Mindanao, we grew up dazzled by stories about meta-human entities, their variety as colorful as they are confounding.

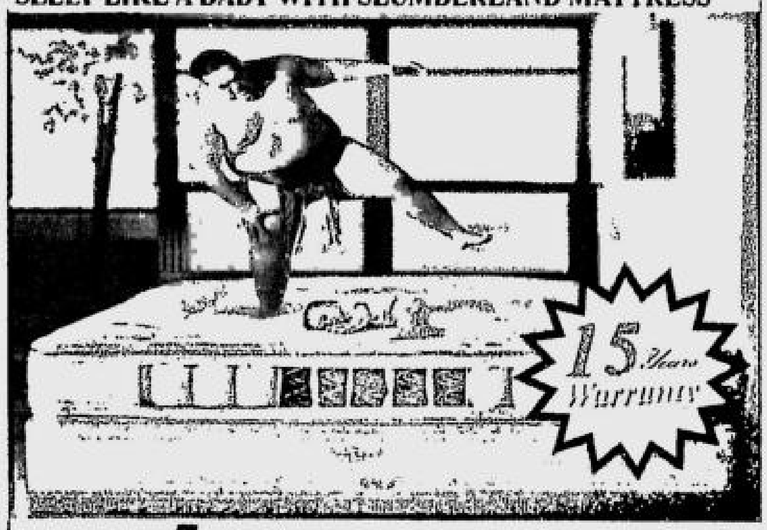
Long before the White Lady has captured the imagination of today's kids, other ghastly, ghostly beings and demonic practices haunted the commonfolk:

There's the *agta* (a very dark, hairy being); the *santelmo* (a lingering, fiery phantom); the *kapre* (a cigar-puffing giant); the *wakwak* (a blood-sucking, winged creature like the *manananggal*, but with legs); and the *mananambal* or the *albularyo*, a quack doctor or folk healer who can heal maladies and perform sorcery—or *kulam* in Tagalog, and *barang* in the Visayan dialect.

In Neal Tan's latest production, Thalia (Dianne Marquez) goes home to Sta. Barbara eight years after she's separated from her sister, Igna (Juliana Palermo), who died allegedly from *Nana* Ursula's *barang* (curse). Ursula, a *mangkukulam* (witch), wants to avenge the death of her spurned, adopted son, Elmo (Jay Manalo), but her black magic finds competition in *Aling* Ramona's (Jaclyn Jose) white magic. The duo then engages in a duel, waged not with lasers and light sabers, but with potions and a stringray's tail!

Jaclyn is impressive despite an underwritten role. Also notable are Palermo, Manalo and Marquez. The film likewise earns plus points for its impressive setting (Gov. Chavit Singson's

FOLK TALES/ E3



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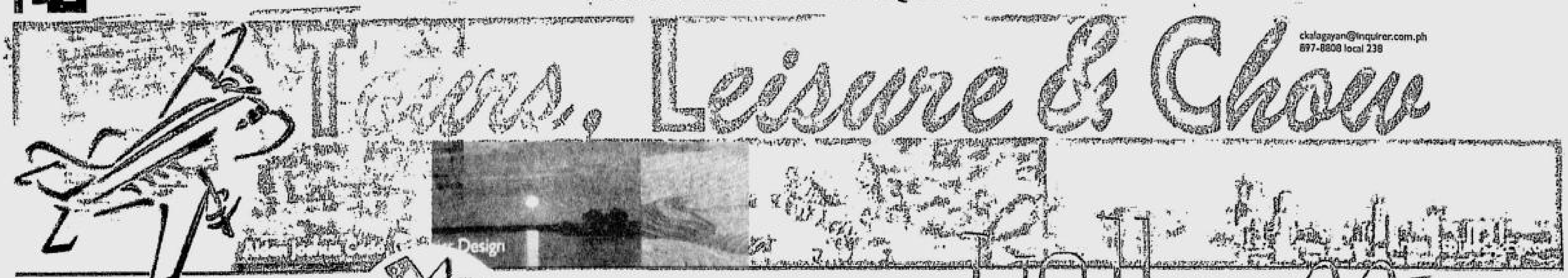

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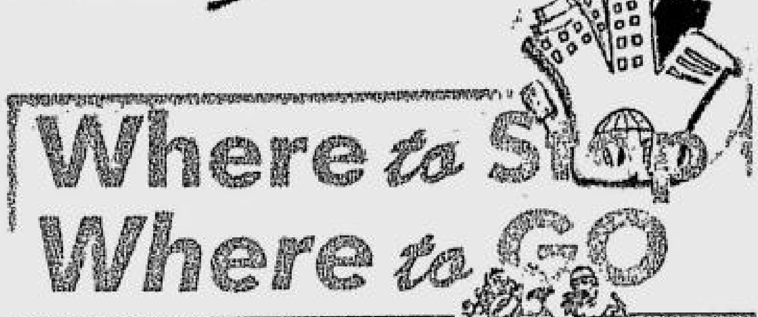

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http://www.subichotel.com

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Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
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www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
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Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
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A cool, cool Halloween weekend in Camp John Hay

PREPARE FOR A COOL, COOL HALLOWEEN weekend in Camp John Hay from Oct. 27 to 31. Halloween revelers both old and young will be treated to four days of fun and enjoyment – featuring scary movies, trick-or-treat activities, and a street party!

Acoustic Afternoon at the Art Park - Afternoons are an artistic treat at the Art Park on Ordonio Drive from Oct. 27 to 30, as local music artists perform acoustic hits while painters and artists will be available to draw your portrait. In the evenings, watch classic horror movies as a cozy bonfire warms you amidst the chilly night air.

White Party: White + Fab - On Oct. 29, white is the color of the night as the Camp John Hay White Party blasts off at the Golf Clubhouse; guests wear white in the coolest and funkiest styles that they can imagine. A fantastic prize awaits the most fabulous white outfit! R&B bands and party music will keep the people moving, while a Beer Drinking Contest by San Miguel Beer's Oktoberfest celebration will keep the booze flowing.

Halloween Trick or Treat & Goth+Glam Street Party - Children of all ages will have a memorable Halloween experience on Oct. 31, as they participate in a camp-wide Halloween Trick-or-Treat activity at the Scout Hill, while a mime show and surprise kiddie program awaits them afterwards at the Art Park.

In the evening, the Halloween weekend culminates with the Goth+Glam Street Party at the Art Park, Ordonio Drive (in front of the Filling Station). Street musical dance performances featuring AllStars, grand champion of the Hip Hop International Competition in Turin, Italy, and a hip-reggae band gets the party rolling, and the guests wearing the best rock star, pop star, or Goth + Glam outfits will win fabulous prizes.

The Camp John Hay Halloween Weekend 2006 is presented by the Camp John Hay Development Corporation, Globe Telecom Inc, San Miguel Beer Oktoberfest, in cooperation with the Camp John Hay Manor, the Camp John Hay Golf Club Inc, Le Chef @ the Manor, Kork Inc, and 96.7 K-lite. For more information, you may call the Marketing Sales and Public Relations Office at (02)637-6966 in Manila, or (074)442-5782 in Baguio.

THE BELLEVUE HOTEL EMPLOYEES WIN FIRST AID CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

The efficient and well-trained employees of The Bellevue Hotel topped the 16th National SOPI-PNRC First Aid/CPR Competition, an event organized by the Safety Organization of the Philippines Inc (Sopi) and the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) at the Don Bosco Technological Institute in Mandaluyong. Photo shows The Bellevue employees: first row - Vernon Villanueva (housekeeping), PNRC trainer Tito Vic Alemania, Renato Ramirez (security), Jonathan Dada (security), Neil Esperanzate (security manager), Patrick Chan (general manager); second row - Arnel Tuvilla (engineering), Anne Ruth de Guzman (housekeeping), Jeng Ricalde (HR manager), Jehn Domingo (marketing), Denice Bayhon (sales and marketing); 3rd row - engineer Noel Lacsina (chief engineer), Salvador Abasolo (housekeeping), Philip Garrido (security); Ian Domingo (food and beverage), Larry Martin (front office). In preparation for the competition, Bellevue employees took up a rigorous month-long training at the hotel, where they were educated in the aspects of safety and first aid such as basic life support for adult and child, situational analysis and application, bandaging relay, transfer/carrying relay and other safety issues.

Quantum Hotels & Resorts' new VP for sales and marketing

THE MANAGEMENT AND OWNERSHIP OF Quantum Hotels & Resorts is pleased to announce the appointment of Joey Bernardino as vice-president for sales and marketing. A seasoned hotelier with more than 10 years of experience in the industry, Bernardino has worked for a number of international chain hotels in the Philippines and held top key positions in operations and sales and marketing. As VP-sales and marketing for Quantum Hotels & Resorts, Bernardino will be at the helm in setting forth the direction for the company's sales and marketing endeavors for its five properties, namely The Malayan Plaza, BSA Suites, Perla Mansion, BSA Towers and Subic Holiday Villas.

Marco Polo Davao tops culinary fest

FOR THE THIRD TIME, MARCO POLO DAVAO HAS EMERGED AS Mindanao's overall culinary champion. This first-class luxury international hotel earned its latest trophy after bagging nine gold medals, six silver, and five bronze at the recently-concluded 6th Mindanao Culinary Festival at the NCCC Convention Center. Marco Polo Davao's nine golds surpassed its last year's six. The hotel had its chefs, bakers, waiters, bartenders and florists participating in the event's professional category, where they posted a record haul of nine golds, two of which with distinction for acquiring perfect scores in the UFS Market Basket and URC Globe Flour Artistic Bread Display. Other awards were garnered from Nestlé Food Services Market Basket, Universal Food Solutions 3-S Competition, Fruit and Vegetable Carving, Waiter's Relay, and Centerpiece Arrangement. Six silver and five bronze medals as well as a diploma came from the bartending, table setting and cold pastry plating competitions. All of Marco Polo Davao's entries to the competitions won awards, which totaled 21, including the championship trophy signifying the hotel's towering standard of excellence.

Trick Astoria treats

THIS HALLOWEEN, EXTEND YOUR GHOST HUNTing nights. From Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 you can stay for 2 nights and get your 3rd night free. Check in at Astoria Plaza's 1 Bedroom suite for only P5,250 net and 2 bedroom suite for only P7,580 net and get spooky. Astoria Plaza "comes alive" with Halloween activities for the entire family. Adults and children of all ages are invited to take part in our weekend adventure. For only P350 per person, Astoria Plaza will treat you and your kids to a ceramic painting, puppet shows and trick or treats. Astoria Plaza is ideally located at # 15 J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Ave.) Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries, you can call 687-1111. E-mail: sales@astoriaplaza.com, website: www.astoriaplaza.com. Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

Only one number to call for your hotel reservations needs

THESE DAYS, BOOKING A HOTEL ROOM OR inquiring about its hotel amenities normally involves calling around hotels one by one. Or one may rely on travel agencies that offer a limited range of hotel and resort choices depending on the existing hook ups they have with certain establishments.

One may also keep booking at the same tried and tested hotel, afraid of risking his comfort and convenience, yet possibly missing out on better deals offered by other hotels of the same standard. Relying on word of mouth for a hotel's up-to-date information is not foolproof either, since a good place to stay differs from person to person.

By calling just one hotline number, customers can make inquiries or bookings on all hotels around the Philippines. With its extensive ready data on its more than 200 hotel partners located in the country's top destinations, PHRS can immediately answer a customer's query or book his hotel requirements without the need of returning his call.

PHRS Central Hotel Reservation Hotline is (02)812-7477 (PHRS). Its website, www.phrs.com.ph, provides supplement information on its list of hotels such as detailed hotel information and amenities, pictures of rooms, and payment policies. And with the help of its reservation agents, clients can search among the hotels that fall within his specified price range, making the search a lot simpler and quicker.

Hotel rates would also not be a problem because customers are assured that its prices are lower than the hotels' published rates. Depending on the season and the classification of the property, clients can get from 30 to as much as 70-percent discount.

Reservations can also be done by fax at (02)491-0226, text messaging at (0909)4942990, or through e-mail at info@phrs.com.ph. The PHRS office is located at Room 819 Cattleya Bldg., 235 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. It is open from Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. while reservations are open from Mondays to Sundays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

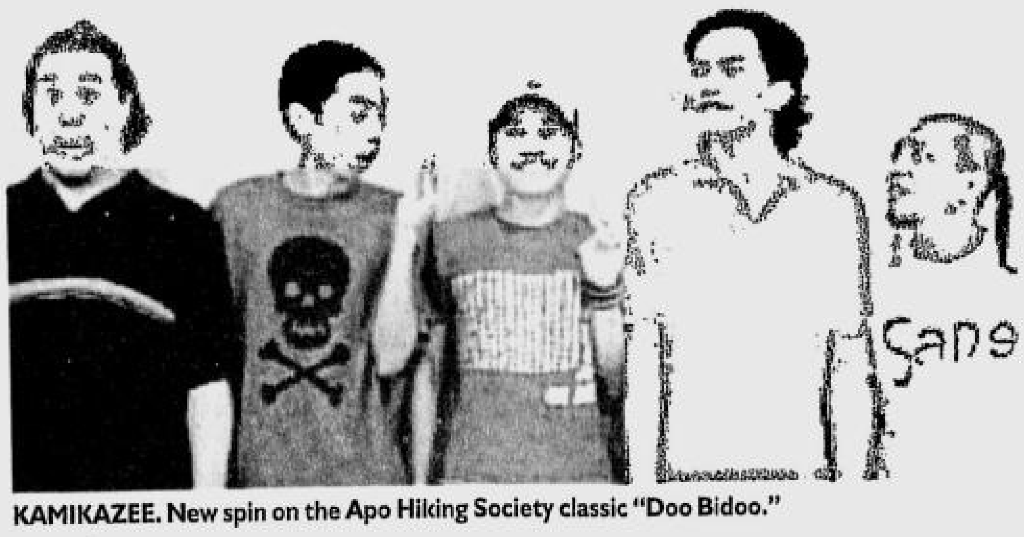
People, Events & Products

Cocopea raises concern

THE COORDINATING COUNCIL OF PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (Cocopea), which is the voice of private schools and representing over 90 percent of the total number of higher educational institutions (HEIs) in the country, has raised its concern over the continued use of the present formula in computing a school's passing percentage in licensure examinations given by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). These licensure examination results are being used almost exclusively by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), to assess the quality and standards of programs with licensure examinations of all HEIs. The private schools are batting for a formula that is more realistic and fair in computing performance that is ascribed to them in a particular licensure examination. Cocopea is of the position that there's a better approach to measure the quality of a school's program akin to the multi-layered evaluation instrument that is used in accreditation around the world. The private schools believe that licensure examination results are not enough and should not be the only factor to gauge the quality of their graduates. The Cocopea is the umbrella organization of 1,864 private schools, colleges and universities nationwide.

HDI Network promotes good health

HDI NETWORK PHILIPPINES INC formerly known as High Desert Philippines is an international company with people earning up to 50 to 100 times their countries' average annual income. Today, HDI Network continues to care and is dedicated to provide Filipinos with excellent products through research and development to give them value for there money, promote good health and give them the opportunity to have the kind of lifestyle they want for themselves and their loved ones. HDI Network's unique set of products holds three distinct and very important characteristics any consumer would want: premium quality, 100 percent efficacy and consumer affordability. All products are BFAD-approved and are developed by well-known manufacturers in the USA - CC Pollen and HDI Nutrients. HDI Network Philippines Inc is located at the 3rd Floor of Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center.



KAMIKAZEE. New spin on the Apo Hiking Society classic "Doo Bidoo."

Reggae and rock videos win some, lose some

By Rica Arevalo

FOR ONCE, IT'S GREAT TO SEE A MUSIC video that doesn't talk about "being in love." Upcoming band Isla Era is creating a stir among MTV aficionados with their reggae-rock single, "Barkada Ko." The chorus goes: "*Kaming lahat ay hindi patatalo/ Sasabay sa kahit anong uso/ Magkasama saan man patungo/ Okay talaga ang barkada ko.*"

Wholesome

The lyrics are simple and wholesome, and everyone can easily sing along and memorize them. In the video, band members, composed of lead vocalist Romeo "Zeloi" Catedrilla, bassist Mark "Marcus" Resma, drummer Franiel "Toto" Sumagaysay, and guitarist Dennis "Dencio" Ceballos, come to the rescue when a red Volkswagen conks out on the road.

Then, the scene intercuts into another that shows the Davao-based band performing on a beach, with the word "fun" written all over them.

Unfortunately, the low-budget music video looks unoriginal and amateurish. Even exercises in video production in schools look better. While the guys succeed in delivering a distinctively refreshing reggae beat, what they should have done was hire a talented director who could execute fresh concepts that would suit their unconventional taste in music and theme.

On the other hand, the wild boys of Kamikazee are again turning heads—and opening ears—as they reinvent the Apo Hiking Society's well-loved OPM ditty, "Doo Bidoo."

Unique style

Since day one, music fans have patronized the group's punk rock and heavy metal videos because of their unique style. In the MTV, lead vocalist Jay Contreras' hyperactive movements eat up the TV screen.

Directed by Topel Lee, the video uses fast cuts to complement the band's palpable energy. The boys play Indians who dangle peace pipes and smoke signals as they are seen circling a fire.

In the end, when the words "Doo Bi" are blurted out, an Indian girl (played by Alexis Go) comes out of the fire—to the boys' surprise and delight. Quite entertaining, indeed!

Folk tales and urban legends live on

From page E1

majestic *Baluarte* abode in Vigan).

Unfortunately, the rest of the cast don't do so well: Many of them look lost amidst the clutter of a script that doesn't know what it wants to say—either they're expressionless, or they try (so hard) to impress by resorting to vein-popping, ear drum-smashing histrionics (Cristine Reyes, Liza Lorena).

The production's biggest blunders, however, are its dodgy research and its makers' misguided penchant for "reinventing" local mythology: It stands on a shaky premise that repetitively emphasizes that *barang* is worse than *kulam* (their effects are the same). (James McClenon, in an article on wikipedia, describes how *barang*—which actually derived its name from a local beetle—is performed using the said insect).

Local movies should take advantage of the richness of our culture and folk tales. But, good films require more than just good intentions. You need not "accessorize" an already colorful mythology—whether real or imagined—with details that make it more laughable than reverential.

JOSE. Impressive in an underwritten role.

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3. Buy PANOXYL Acne Gel Pack or PANOXYL Bar Pack.
4. Use the label as the raffle entry. Write the following details

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5. Any of the following labels will be accepted as valid entries.
6. Entries must be placed in a sealed envelope and dropped in designated dropboxes in selected leading drugstores nationwide and designated booths during the school and mall tours
   Entries without envelopes will still be considered, as long as the receipt is attached to the label
7. Entries may also be sent to the following addresses:
   a. ABS-CBN Manila and Provincial TV stations nationwide
   b. GMA 7 Manila and Provincial TV stations nationwide
   c. PROCAST, INC. - #20 San Roque Street, Bo. Kapitolyo Pasig City, 1603
8. There will be one Preliminary Draw and one Grand Draw
9. Preliminary Draw
   a. Period Covered: September 10 - October 16, 2006
   b. Draw date: October 22, 2006
10. Grand Draw
   a. Period Covered: October 17 – November 30, 2006
   b. Draw date: December 6, 2006
11. Non-winning entries of the Preliminary Draw will still qualify for the Grand Draw.
12. Winners will be contacted through their mobile phones and telephone numbers by the Verification Team. They will receive a confirmation letter via telegram.
13. The following must be presented by the winner/s for verification:
   a. Confirmation letter from the Verification Team
   b. Valid ID with picture (e.g. school ID, passport) bearing the same name and address that was used in registering for the promo
   c. If in case valid IDs do not indicate birthdate/age, present a birth certificate.
14. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days after verification. Prizes not claimed after 60 days will be forfeited in favor of STIEFEL PHILS., INC.
15. All prizes are tax-free and non transferable
16. All employees of STIEFEL PHILS., INC., their Distributors, agencies/third party suppliers and other participating drug stores [illegible] and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo
17. The winners declared by BFAD, STIEFEL PHILS., INC., and its representatives are final
18. Cut-off period for submission of entries are the following:
   a. Preliminary Draw: 11:59PM October 16, 2006
   b. Grand Draw: 11:59PM November 30, 2006
19. Winners should agree to be featured in any and all publicity materials regarding the promo

zes to be won

For the Preliminary Draw
a. Five winners of Php10,000.00 each in cash. Store of purchase gets P2,500.00
b. Two winners of One (1) IPOD each worth Php12,000.00. Store of purchase gets Php2,500.00
c. Two winners of One (1) Cellphone each worth Php15,000.00. Store of purchase gets Php2,500.00
d. For the Preliminary Draw, a participant can only win once.
   In the event that a winner's name is drawn more than once, another entry shall be picked in its place

For the Grand Draw

lation Prizes
a. Eight winners of One (1) IPOD each worth Php12,000.00. Store of purchase gets Php2,500.00
b. Eight winners of One (1) Cellphone each worth Php15,000.00 Store of purchase gets Php2,500.00
c. Five winners of Php25,000.00 in cash. Store of purchase gets Php2,500.00

Major

d. Two winners of Php100,000.00 cash. Store of purchase gets Php5,000
e. One grand prize winner of Php300,000.00 in cash. Store of purchase gets Php15,000.00
f. For the Grand Draw, a participant can only win once.
   In the event that a winner's name is drawn more than once during the drawing of the consolation prize, another entry shall be picked in its place. In the event that a consolation prize winner is drawn as the grand prize, s/he gets the higher prize and another entry shall be picked as a consolation prize winner.

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Studdard is looking for love

STUDDARD. Wants to be taken seriously.

NEW YORK—AFTER WINNING "AMERICAN Idol" in 2003, Ruben Studdard became an instant superstar. His face was plastered everywhere; his debut album, "Soulful," went platinum in an instant—he even had a bona fide hit, "Sorry."

But, after that initial hoopla, the fever for the so-called "Velvet Teddy Bear" cooled. His gospel album, 2004's "I Need An Angel," was barely noticed, and as other "Idols" were crowned, he found that his prestige as a former winner had an expiration date.

Third album

Now, as the 28-year-old soul singer releases his third album, "The Return," he finds himself visiting markets small and large, hoping America would fall in love with their "American Idol" again. Studdard sat down with The Associated Press to talk about his music, weight loss, and why he is looking for love:

How hard has it been to break away from the "American Idol" typecast?

Honestly, I never want people to forget I won the show. But, I do want people to take me seriously as an artist outside of "American Idol."

Do you look at Kelly Clarkson as a model, since she is now a Grammy-winning, multi-platinum star with cred?

Of course, I do. Everybody who has left that show looks at her as a model for what we want to do to further our careers. It wasn't easy for her to get that "American Idol" stigma changed. She also had to work hard—and it paid off.

Market

On the first album, I didn't have to go out and do radio promos, because people already knew who I was. With this third project, I have to reintroduce myself to the market.

You lost weight. Was losing weight deliberate on your part as a way to promote the album?

Everytime an artist comes out, he has to reinvent himself. That is why it was necessary for me to get in shape, to have something different going to promote my new album. I wanted to get in shape because I have a family history of diabetes and high blood pressure.

I felt it was necessary to combat those issues at a young age before it became a problem. I went to Duke Diet & Fitness Center for a month and learned how to change my eating habits. Two weeks after, I turned to a vegetarian diet. It's been wonderful!

The "Today" show reported that you lost 100 pounds…

They said 100 pounds, I told them 70.

What has been the hardest food to give up?

The hardest to give up was chicken. Right now, I am trying my hardest to stay away from French fries.

Fitness program

How hard is it to stay on this fitness program?

One thing I had to figure out is that, there are just as many healthy choices in food as there are bad ones. When I'm ordering with a group, I just look for the healthy choices. Working out is hard, because my schedule is so hectic.

A lot of former "Idols" and finalists are coming out with albums this season. Do you feel added pressure?

No. We are in different genres. Kelly' s music is rock, Clay Aiken is in adult contemporary, I'm urban. Even if we were in the same market, I still wouldn't feel that way, because we are family.

What do you think about the state of R&B music today?

Hip-hop has taken over. It's harder for R&B artists to get records played on the radio. It's not a bad thing because I grew-up listening to hip-hop. We've all had to clip up our style a little bit. Back in the day, I remember when hip-hop artists used to want to be on R&B songs. Now. it's the other way around.

Do you ever get tired of being recognized?

When I won, it was hard, because I didn't want to be bothered. But, I understand it's part of my job. Fans are always happy to see their idols.

Everything that a celebrity has is because of the fans who purchase his albums and concert tickets. When they don't want your autograph, *then* you should be worried.

Worst diva moment

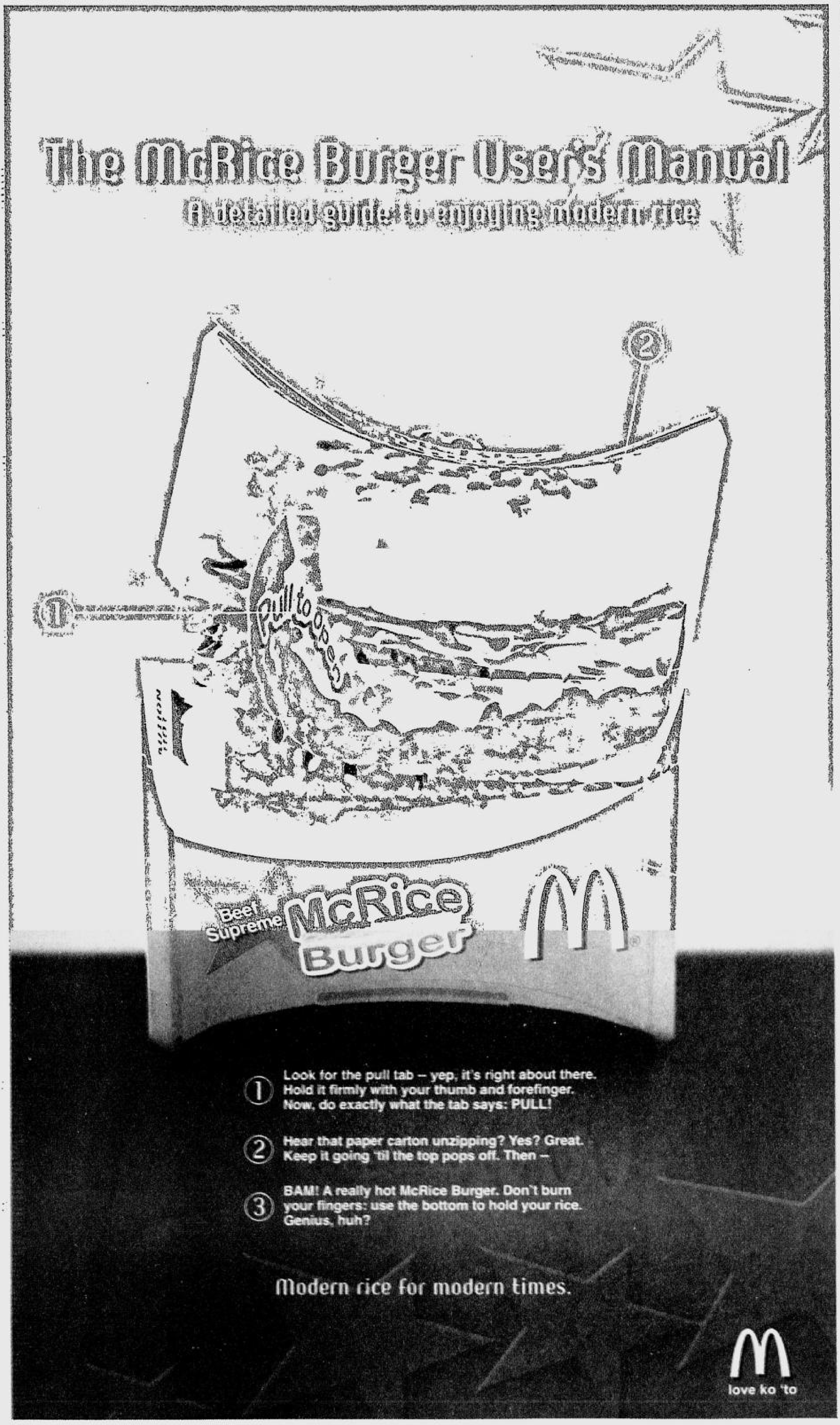
What was your worst diva moment?

My worst moment happened when this rude lady threw her paper on the table and was, like, "Sign this"—I almost lost it!

Most of yours songs are about love. Are you looking for love?

Yes. I think we all do. I don't think there's anyone out there who wants to be by himself. I don't want to be alone for the rest of my life!

AP


The McRice Burger User's Manual
A detailed guide to enjoying modern rice
①
②
Pull to open
Beef Supreme McRice Burger
M
love ko 'to
① Look for the pull tab – yep, it's right about there. Hold it firmly with your thumb and forefinger. Now, do exactly what the tab says: PULL!

② Hear that paper carton unzipping? Yes? Great. Keep it going 'til the top pops off. Then –

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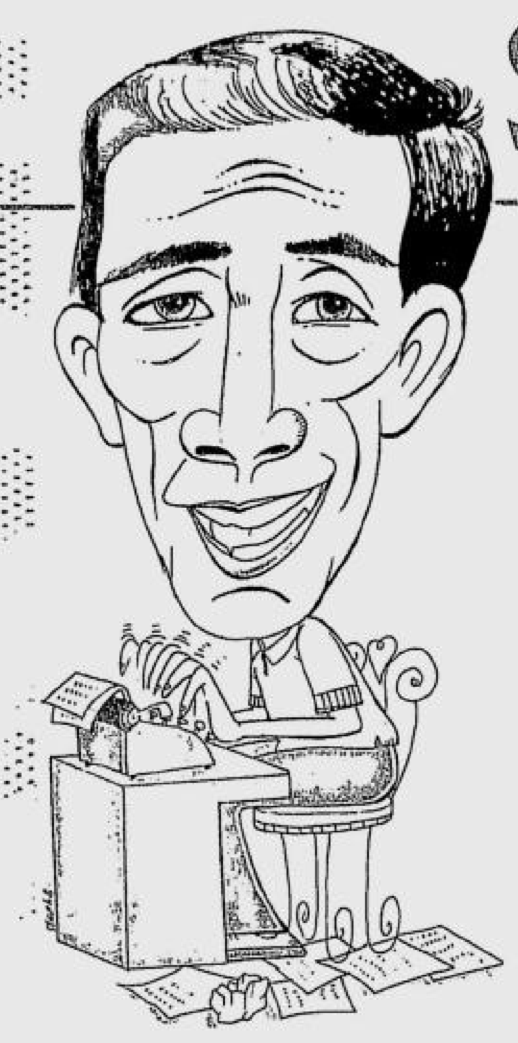


TINIO. National Artist for Theater.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

Lessons learned from top directors

By Nestor U. Torre

WE STARTED OUR theater and media career as an actor, but soon also wrote scripts and directed a number of productions. We did take screenwriting courses in the States, but our aptitude for directing was honed on the job, as it were, since we were mentored by some excellent directors and learned a lot from closely observing them at work.

Imagination

We were still in school when we were directed by Armando Baltazar and Fr. Victor Helly, SJ. From them, we learned to look for good scripts to direct, and to mount them with simplicity, directness and imagination.

Taking up graduate studies in the States, we were directed by Dr. Francis Bacon, whose love for readers' theater we also acquired. In England, we played the title character in "Achilles and the Siege of Troy," and learned from our young director, the son of the British ambassador to the Philippines, to be passionate about theater.

Strong impression

He rehearsed our "international" cast for a very long time in order to come up with the best possible show, and our production was acclaimed. That made a strong impression on me, and taught me that, in the arts, excellence is an exacting taskmaster.

Truly, nothing but the best will do. Dr. Bacon taught for a year at UP, and directed us again, this time, in an evening of excerpts from Shakespeare's plays, "This Mortal Coil."

Dr. Bacon's staging was so well-received that many of the country's best directors went out of their way to see the show—and we benefited from the exposure.

Before we knew it, Joey Gosiengfiao had tapped us to act for him in a UE production that was so glowingly praised by top reviewer Morli Dharam that it quickly led to other offers.

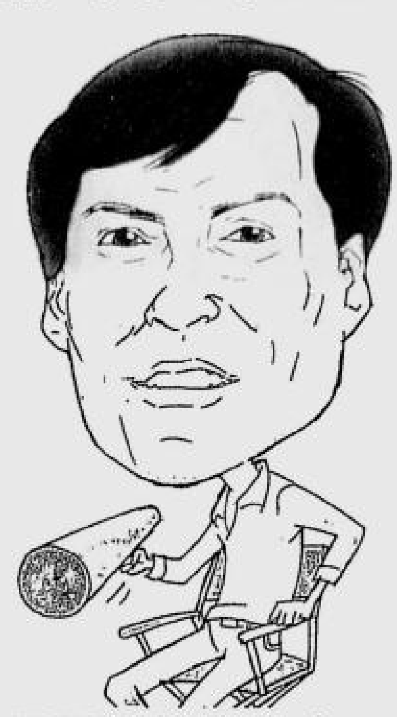
New thrust

From Joey, we learned to be playful and to fantasize, and this enabled us to have more fun onstage. We welcomed this new thrust, because we were too dourly serious about theater in those days.

We were also thrilled to be mentored by the country's top theater couple, Bert and Daisy Avellana. We appreciated their combination of seriousness of purpose and a breezily light touch.

The kinetic and maverick Behn Cervantes also directed us in a number of

LESSONS/ F2



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As with service, you also expect nothing short of perfection. You are on your own personal quest. You are someone who deserves nothing less than VIP treatment as you go through that quest. This is your vision of the perfect shopping world, now made real by the new union between lifestyle innovators AIG Credit Cards and Rustan's Department Store

No other alliance provides you with the ultimate shopping experience AIG Credit Cards, one of the most trusted credit card companies in the Philippines, and Rustan's, the metro's premier lifestyle hub, cooperate in a concerted effort to elevate your shopping experience to the crest of prestige and finery. While Rustan's carries on the tradition of offering only the finest in world-renowned Fashion, Jewelry, Accessories and Home labels, the luxury retailer also endeavors to ensure shopping convenience that exceeds customer expectations. Rustan's latest undertaking reveals a convergence of lifestyle essentials in the form of pampering, wellness and relaxation hotspots located at the newly refurbished top floor of the Makati store, aptly dubbed Heaven on the 5th. A' Rustan's department stores, customers – most especially the AIG Credit Cardholders – are in for divine pampering and shopping treats, and so much more.

In anticipation of the holiday rush, Rustan's is setting up express counters exclusive to AIG Credit Cardholders for even faster and more convenient transactions. Between shopping dashes, cardholders can also avail themselves of especially reserved tables at Rustan's Makati's East Café, then go straight to their exclusive gift wrapping station and receive complimentary gift wrapping service for an unlimited number of items bought at Rustan's

Who says shopping means spending? With the AIG-Rustan's partnership, shopping also means getting something extra in return. The more you indulge, the more you receive. Keep on using your AIG Credit Card at Rustan's and get a P1,000 Rustan's Gift Certificate FREE for every P10,000 spending.

For non-members, now is the perfect time to welcome the season's holiday cheer and get your own AIG Credit Card. When you apply, you automatically become a member of Rustan's Frequent Shoppers Plus (FSP) program. No fees are required, and you instantly receive 1,000 bonus FSP points, FREE. Accumulate these points to avail yourselves of breath-taking rewards and a completely new level of satisfaction

There's more – once your AIG Credit Card application is approved, simply use it to purchase at least P2,500 worth of merchandise at Rustan's and get a FREE Rustan's Gift Certificate amounting to P1,000. To top it all off, you also receive 1,000 more FSP points, FREE!

Taking this movement to a greater height is a One Million Peso shopping spree up for grabs. Shop at any Rustan's Department Store and get 5 raffle entries for every P1,000 charged to your AIG Credit Card. Get 3 raffle entries for every P1,000 AIG Credit Card-charged merchandise from Stores Specialists, Inc., Marks & Spencer, Debenhams & Shopwise, and 1 raffle entry for every P1,000 charged everywhere else you use your AIG Credit Card. Shop to win—that's the simple rule in this raffle.

You get this kind of VIP treatment only from Rustan's and AIG Credit Cards – the exclusive union that understands your life and how you live it. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Seize it. Take it not just because you want it, but because you deserve it

Now, this is euphoric shopping.

Partnering in bringing the best of what life has to offer. Mr. Joven D. Reyes, Country Manager–Philippines, AIG Consumer Finance Group and Ms. Marina V. Tantoco, Special Assistant to the President, Rustan Commercial Corporation.

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jeff bridges
stick it
Defy and Conquer

Haley Graham (Missy Peregrym, "Life As We Know It") is a 17 year-old brat who is sentenced into detention after breaking the law. The judge sentences Haley to attend an elite gymnastics academy run by the legendary hardnosed coach Burt Vickerman (Jeff Bridges, "Seabiscuit"), where her rebellious spirit and naughty banter quickly shakes things up at the conservative school.

During her stay, Haley surprises herself when she discovers an unexpected ally with her coach and learns respect in a different way.

Together, Haley with her coach and a group of gymnasts face a major championship and prove that loyalty, friendship and individuality matter more than techniques, judges and scores.

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Jeff Bridges • Missy Peregrym

Written and Directed by
Jessica Bendinger

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METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX
T-REX IN 3D
3:00PM 4:30PM Admission Price- P200
OPEN SEASON IN 3D
11:00AM 1:00PM 6:00PM 8:00PM 10:00PM
Admission Price- P300

1 THE BANQUET
2 FEAST
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 THE GRUDGE 2
5 OPEN SEASON
6 TXT

PREMIERE CINEMA
TILL I MET YOU

DIRECTOR'S CLUB
RESERVED

CENTERSTAGE
WORLD TRADE CENTER

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
THE PRESTIGE
CINEMA 2
WORLD TRADE CENTER
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 OPEN SEASON
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE BANQUET
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 FEAST
10 TXT
11 THE PRESTIGE
12 THE GRUDGE 2

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 THE DEPARTED
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 OPEN SEASON
6 THE PRESTIGE
7 FEAST
8 TXT
9 THE GRUDGE 2
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 THE GUARDIAN
12 THE BANQUET

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 ANNAPOLIS
2 THE BANQUET
3 FEAST
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 BARANG
7 THE PRESTIGE
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 TXT
10 PULSE
11 THE GUARDIAN
12 OPEN SEASON

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TXT
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 FEAST
7 THE BANQUET
8 BARANG
9 TXT
10 THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 FEAST
4 OPEN SEASON
5 WORLD TRADE CENTER
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 FEAST
5 WORLD TRADE CENTER
6 TXT
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 OPEN SEASON
9 BARANG

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 STICK IT
3 BARANG
4 TXT
5 OPEN SEASON
6 THE GRUDGE 2
7 PULSE
8 THE GUARDIAN
9 WORLD TRADE CENTER
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 THE BANQUET
12 FEAST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE PRESTIGE

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The Bear of Open Season.

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 BARANG
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 TXT
5 THE PRESTIGE
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 WORLD TRADE CENTER
8 OPEN SEASON

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 FLY BOYS
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 TXT

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 THE DEPARTED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 FLY BOYS
4 TXT

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9037681-85

1 TXT
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 THE PRESTIGE
5 MY FIRST WEDDING
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA

1 THE BREED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WICKER MAN
4 THE DEPARTED

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197836-39

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 FLY BOYS
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3180

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 THE BANQUET

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE BREED
3 OPEN SEASON
4 TXT

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 OPEN SEASON
5 PULSE
6 THE DEPARTED
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 RESERVED
3 THE BREED
4 OPEN SEASON
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 STEP UP
7 RESERVED
8 PULSE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 PULSE
5 STEP UP
6 THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 THE DEPARTED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 FLY BOYS

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GALLERIA

1 THE BANQUET • THX
1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00

2 THE PRESTIGE
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

3 THE DEPARTED
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

4 OPEN SEASON
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9.50

5 THE GRUDGE 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

7 FEAST
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

8 TXT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 THE GUARDIAN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

10 TILL I MET YOU
12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 9:45

ERMITA

1 THE GRUDGE 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 OPEN SEASON
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

3 TXT
12:30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9.50

4 TILL I MET YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7.25 9:50

5 WORLD TRADE CENTER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

6 FEAST
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

7 THE PRESTIGE
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

METRO EAST

682-8193 • 682-8199

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
12:45 3:30 6.15 9:00

2 THE GRUDGE 2
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

3 OPEN SEASON
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

4 TILL I MET YOU
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

5 TXT
1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

6 FEAST
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

7 THE PRESTIGE
12:40 3:20 6:10 9.00

8 THE GUARDIAN
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

NOVALICHES

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 OPEN SEASON
4 THE PRESTIGE

CITISQUARE MALABON

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 OPEN SEASON

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STA. ROSA

1 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 THE BREED
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON

LIPA

1 THE DEPARTED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE BREED
4 TILL I MET YOU

DASMARIÑAS

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 OPEN SEASON
4 TILL I MET YOU

ANGELES

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE GRUDGE 2

IMUS

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(046) 474-8188

1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 TILL I MET YOU

STARMILLS

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1 OPEN SEASON
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 MY FIRST WEDDING
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 THE PRESTIGE

BACOLOD

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1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE BREED
5 OPEN SEASON
6 TILL I MET YOU

ILOILO

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 PULSE
5 DEAD OR ALIVE

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AMADOR. Energy and truth.

Lessons learned from top directors

From page F1

musicals and activist plays. We enjoyed his committed and courageous approach, and found his love for musical theater catching.

At the Manila Theater Guild, Bill Kane directed us in a sex comedy that was so physically demanding that we dislocated our shoulder just before the play opened!

We had to perform with our arm in a sling—and we learned yet another lesson about the exacting nature of our theatrical taskmaster.

Over at UST, Jimmy Asencio directed us in another comedy. Like Kane, Jimmy's directing style was lighthearted, and we learned that theater could be *fun*. For his part, Jonas Sebastian was brilliantly creative and insightful.

Majority

We were directed by other theatrical top guns, but the majority of the productions we acted in were directed by Zeneida Amador and now National Artist for Theater Rolando Tinio.

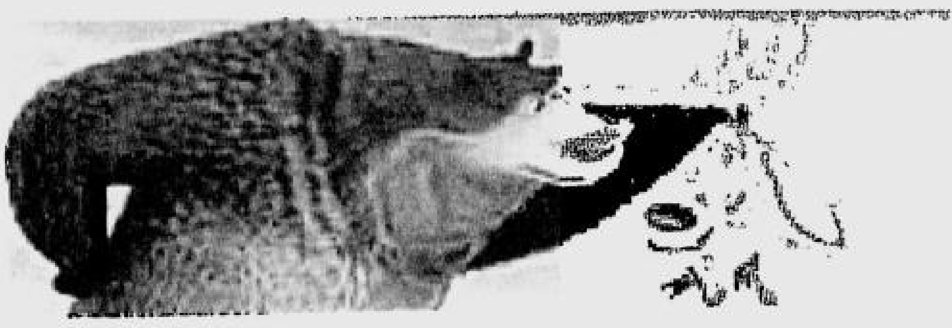
For Bibot Amador, we did some 15 plays. From her, we learned the value of energy and truth in performance.

We acted the most for Rolando—some 40 plays, most of them at the CCP's Teatro Filipino. He was audaciously experimental, stressed versatility, subtext and daring, and made you think that you could do anything.

Thus, under his direction, we "dared" to play Hamlet, Shylock and a host of other demanding characters created by Shakespeare and other masters of world theater.

Even better, we learned that, to be an outstanding director, you need to have your own point of view about human experience, develop the skills and determination required to make that vision come to life in its most integral form, and respect and love your actors—and your audience. All else is theatrical ego tripping!

GOSIENGFIAO. Playful.



SONY'S debut animated feature has an odd-couple scenario—without the chemistry.

Man versus animal in 'Open Season'

By Noelani Torre

WHILE PROMOTING THE ANIMATED FILM, "Open Season," Martin Lawrence, who voiced a major character, has this to say about his co-star, Ashton Kutcher: "I didn't have the opportunity to meet Ashton. Yet, when I watched the finished movie, you would think we had hung out."

Seeing as Lawrence and Kutcher's characters spend most of their screen time with each other, the fact that they've never met—much less do a recording together—sounds pretty odd.

Result

Apparently, however, this is the way they often do it in Hollywood, especially when the voice talent is a big star who's much too busy to schedule recording sessions with other equally busy big stars. The result often sounds slightly askew, but the audience usually doesn't notice. In "Open Season," however, we do.

Lawrence is the voice of Boog, a pampered bear raised in town, who doesn't know anything about living in the wild. Elliot, a mule deer whom Boog rescues, and who then proceeds to "wreck" his life by causing him to be returned to the wild, is voiced by Kutcher.

It's an odd-couple scenario *a la* Shrek and Donkey ("Shrek"), but without the chemistry. Boog and Elliot look like they're relating to each other, but they sound like they're coming from two different places—they don't gel. And since they're the main stars here, this disjointedness is glaring.

Antlers

Aside from the lack of chemistry between its two leads, the movie also suffers from a lack of originality. Take away Elliot's antlers, and you can call him Donkey. Tropicalize the temperate landscape, and you can call it Madagascar.

On the plus side, the visuals are good. Fabrics look touchable, metals are, well, metallic, and the hairs on both animals and humans glisten and move as though they'd undergone the best salon treatments.

Everything is colored much brighter than it is in real life, which has the effect of making the movie feel hyper-real *and* cartoonish at the same time.

Also on the plus side is the story's development in the film's final half. If you've seen the trailers, then you'll know that the movie isn't just a buddy flick, it's also an animals vs. man confrontation.

Development

So if you're old enough to remember having cried over the death of Bambi's mommy, you can think of this development as "Bambi: The Revenge."

All in all, the movie is fast-paced and action-packed enough to amuse the six-year-olds in the audience, and even more discerning adults will laugh once in a while.

It's just that, since it's the debut feature of Sony Pictures Animation, you expect to be wowed, *not* just mildly entertained.

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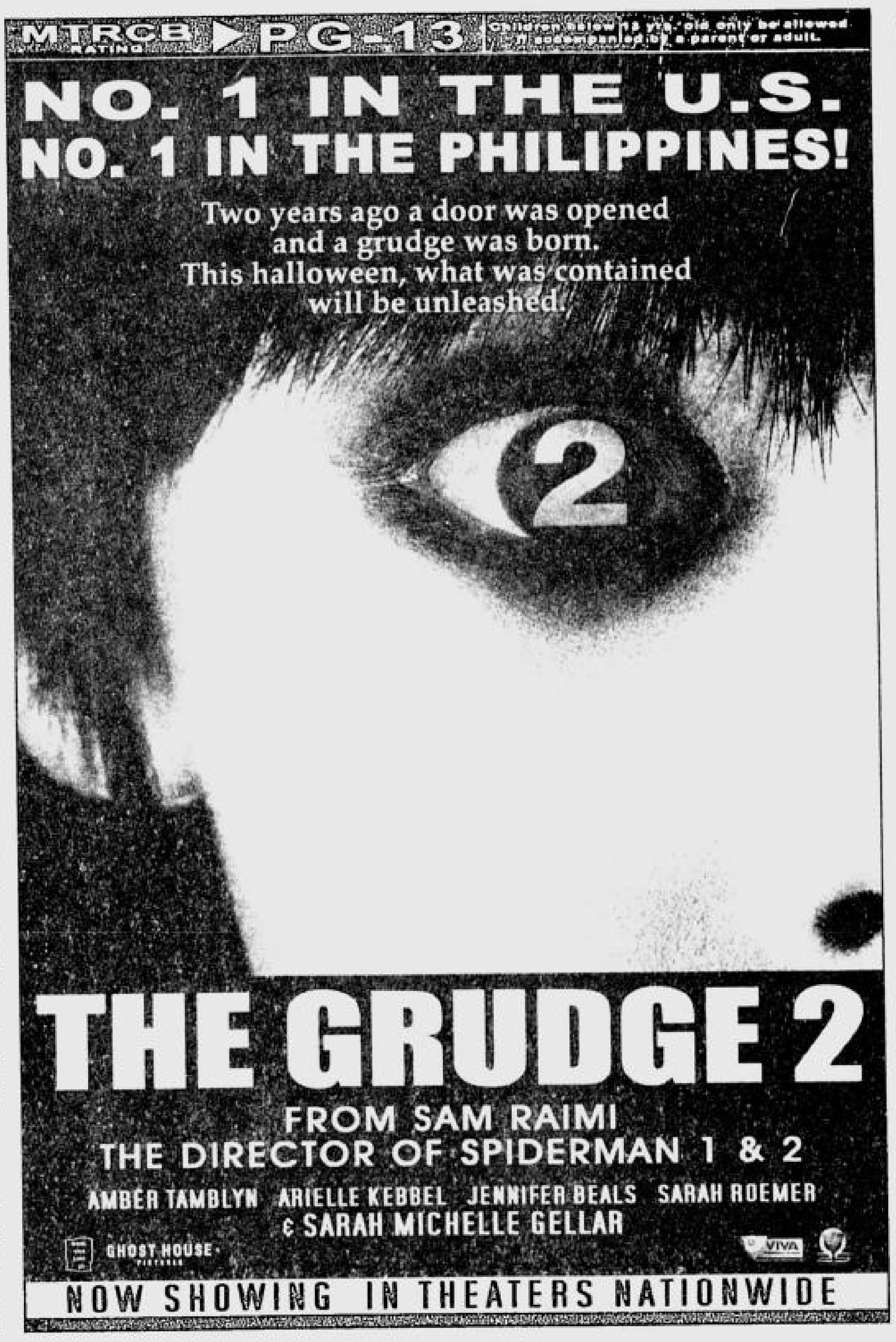

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
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Two years ago a door was opened and a grudge was born.
This halloween, what was contained will be unleashed.
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2nd Level Carousel Court

October 21 • 10am – 6pm
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October 22 • 3pm – 5pm
A premier launch where in all kids can join the club and experience fun adventure with Robby Rabbit.

October 27 & 28
Experience a fun-filled carnival of magicians, jugglers, clowns, unicyclists and lots of ice cream, popcorn, candies, balloons, games, and prizes.

October 29
A mini-fashion show for kids featuring the latest trends of Barbie apparel.

October 31
Be part of the most exciting Halloween Grand Ball party!
A minimum purchase of P1, 000 or 5 sheets-of-ten ride tickets from Oct. 1 – 31 entitles kid to join. Program starts at 3pm.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-412, series of 2006.

October 31 • 10am – 3pm

September 15 – November 30
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GRUDGE 2
12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35
PG-13

OPEN SEASON
2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 10:55
G

THE PRESTIGE
2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:00
R-13

WORLD TRADE CENTER
1:35, 4:20, 11:05
PG-13

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REGINE-ROBIN tandem does it again!!!
1 BOX-OFFICE HIT!!!
Robin Padilla Regine Velasquez
"The director handles the material very well"
"Robin and Regine's performances transcend their stereotypical portrayals in previous films and are a notch deeper that makes it more effective and convincing"
"Eddie Garcia is exceptionally great as an actor, as he always is"
- The CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD Graded B
i never knew what love was...
Till i met you
A film by Mark A. Reyes (dgpi)
NOW ON ITS THIRD WEEK!
Text TILL to 4627 for Smart and Talk 'N Text
Rated "B" by The Cinema Evaluation Board
Pancit Canton
VIVA

Exhibit marks Ramon Orlina's 30th year

ORLINA with the model of his 8.6-meter-high sculpture, "Tetraglobal," for UST's quadricentennial.

RAMON ORLINA HAS found splendor in the glass. Choosing to specialize in art pieces fashioned from this medium, he has carved an inimitable niche for himself in Philippine art.

His works in green glass have become his trademark—with shimmering curves, angles and contours that beguile those who see them.

Passion

These days, Orlina's passion for glass has only grown stronger. This much is evident as he presents his exhibition, "Quintessence," to celebrate his 30 years in sculpture at the MuseumSpace on the second floor of the Glass Wing of Ayala Museum on Makati Avenue,Makati City. The show formally opened last Thursday and runs until Nov. 9.

"Quintessence" is part of the annual Director's Choice series, in which Ayala Museum director, Dr. Florina Capistrano Baker, chooses an artist to sponsor in an exhibit.

Interestingly, Orlina celebrates three decades of his craft, not by holding a retrospective of his works, but by presenting what else is possible in his chosen medium.

The exhibit thus features new sculptures in glass, in a mixture of colors—green, amber, red, pure black and bronze. It also includes works combining glass with materials such as stainless steel.

The show presents studies and a model for one of Orlina's most recent commissions. "Tetraglobal" is an 8.6-meter structure cast in bronze, with glass elements that will be unveiled at the University of Santo Tomas, the sculptor's *alma mater*, when it celebrates its quadricentennial in 2011.

Another highlight of "Quintessence" is a bronze piece cast from one of Orlina's glass sculptures—an indication of his constant quest to push artistic boundaries.

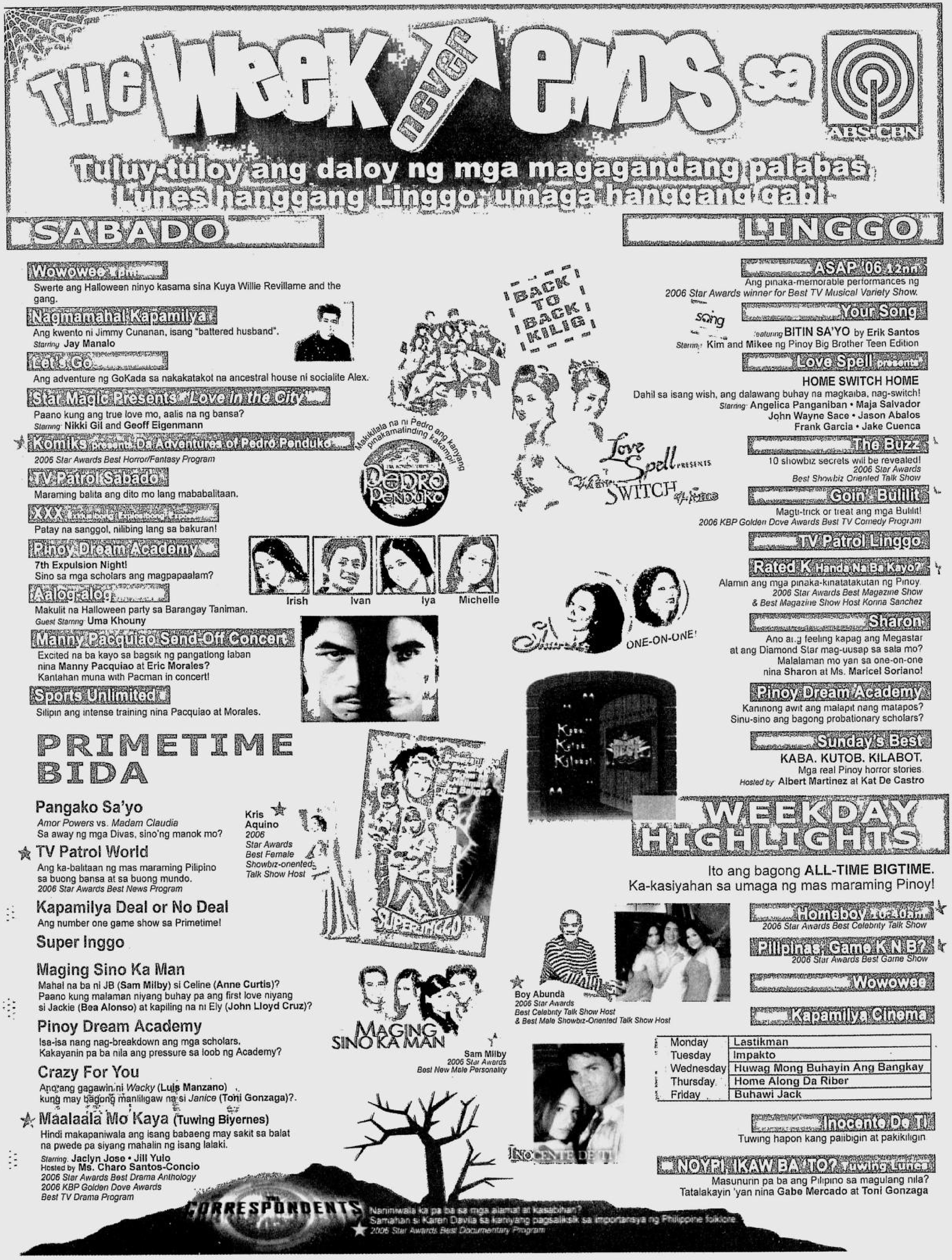
"DIAMOND SKY." Sculpture combines Swarovski crystal and Asahi glass.

Learning process

"For me, it's a continuous learning process: The artist's role is to create, and develop new forms and ideas," Orlina enthuses.

This attitude has served the artist well. His glass creations have evolved through the years. He started with prismatic pieces, then he developed organic forms, sculptures with holes, while incorporating a different range of materials.

Ramon explains, "Glass is endlessly intriguing. This poses a challenge for me to explore its possibilities."



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Tuluy-tuloy ang daloy ng mga magagandang palabas
Lunes hanggang Linggo, umaga hanggang gabi

SABADO

Wowowee 1pm
Swerte ang Halloween ninyo kasama sina Kuya Willie Revillame and the gang.

Nagmamahal Kapamilya
Ang kwento ni Jimmy Cunanan, isang "battered husband".
Starring **Jay Manalo**

Let's Go
Ang adventure ng GoKada sa nakakatakot na ancestral house ni socialite Alex.

Star Magic Presents *Love in the City*
Paano kung ang true love mo, aalis na ng bansa?
Starring **Nikki Gil** and **Geoff Eigenmann**

★ Komiks presents Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko
2006 Star Awards Best Horror/Fantasy Program

Makikilala na ni Pedro ang kanyang pinakamalinding kakampi!

TV Patrol Sabado
Maraming balita ang dito mo lang mababalitaan.

XXX
Patay na sanggol, nilibing lang sa bakuran!

Pinoy Dream Academy
7th Expulsion Night!
Sino sa mga scholars ang magpapaalam?

Irish
Ivan
Iya
Michelle

Aalog-alog
Makulit na Halloween party sa Barangay Taniman.
Guest Starring **Uma Khouny**

Manny Pacquiao Send-Off Concert
Excited na ba kayo sa bagsik ng pangatlong laban nina **Manny Pacquiao** at **Eric Morales?**
Kantahan muna with Pacman in concert!

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Silipin ang intense training nina Pacquiao at Morales.

LINGGO

ASAP '06 12nn
Ang pinaka-memorable performances ng
2006 Star Awards winner for Best TV Musical Variety Show.

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Your Song
featuring **BITIN SA'YO** by **Erik Santos**
Starring **Kim and Mikee ng Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition**

Love Spell presents
HOME SWITCH HOME
Dahil sa isang wish, ang dalawang buhay na magkaiba, nag-switch!
Starring **Angelica Panganiban • Maja Salvador**
John Wayne Sace • Jason Abalos
Frank Garcia • Jake Cuenca

Love Spell PRESENTS SWITCH

The Buzz
10 showbiz secrets will be revealed!
2006 Star Awards
Best Showbiz Oriented Talk Show

Goin' Bulilit
Magti-trick or treat ang mga Bulilit!
2006 KBP Golden Dove Awards Best TV Comedy Program

TV Patrol Linggo

Rated K Handa Na Ba Kayo?
Alamin ang mga pinaka-kinatatakutan ng Pinoy.
2006 Star Awards Best Magazine Show
& Best Magazine Show Host Korina Sanchez

Sharon
Ano ang feeling kapag ang Megastar
at ang Diamond Star mag-uusap sa sala mo?
Malalaman mo yan sa one-on-one
nina **Sharon** at **Ms. Maricel Soriano!**

ONE-ON-ONE!

Pinoy Dream Academy
Kaninong awit ang malapit nang matapos?
Sinu-sino ang bagong probationary scholars?

Sunday's Best
KABA. KUTOB. KILABOT.
Mga real Pinoy horror stories.
Hosted by **Albert Martinez** at **Kat De Castro**

Kaba. Kutob. Kilabot.

PRIMETIME BIDA

Pangako Sa'yo
Amor Powers vs. *Madam Claudia*
Sa away ng mga Divas, sino'ng manok mo?

★ **TV Patrol World**
Ang ka-balitaan ng mas maraming Pilipino sa buong bansa at sa buong mundo.
2006 Star Awards Best News Program

Kapamilya Deal or No Deal
Ang number one game show sa Primetime!

Super Inggo

Kris Aquino ★
2006 Star Awards Best Female Showbiz-oriented Talk Show Host

Maging Sino Ka Man
Mahal na ba ni JB (**Sam Milby**) si Celine (**Anne Curtis**)?
Paano kung malaman niyang buhay pa ang first love niyang si Jackie (**Bea Alonso**) at kapiling na ni Ely (**John Lloyd Cruz**)?

MAGING SINO KA MAN

Sam Milby
2006 Star Awards Best New Male Personality

Pinoy Dream Academy
Isa-isa nang nag-breakdown ang mga scholars.
Kakayanin pa ba nila ang pressure sa loob ng Academy?

Crazy For You
Ano'ang gagawin ni *Wacky* (**Luis Manzano**) kung may bagong manliligaw na si *Janice* (**Toni Gonzaga**)?.

★ **Maalaala Mo Kaya (Tuwing Biyernes)**
Hindi makapaniwala ang isang babaeng may sakit sa balat na pwede pa siyang mahalin ng isang lalaki.
Starring: **Jaclyn Jose • Jill Yulo**
Hosted by **Ms. Charo Santos-Concio**
2006 Star Awards Best Drama Anthology
2006 KBP Golden Dove Awards
Best TV Drama Program

WEEKDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Ito ang bagong **ALL-TIME BIGTIME.**
Ka-kasiyahan sa umaga ng mas maraming Pinoy!

Homeboy 10:40am ★
2006 Star Awards Best Celebrity Talk Show

Pilipinas, Game KNB? ★
2006 Star Awards Best Game Show

★ **Boy Abunda**
2006 Star Awards
Best Celebrity Talk Show Host
& Best Male Showbiz-Oriented Talk Show Host

Wowowee

Kapamilya Cinema

Monday	Lastikman
Tuesday	Impakto
Wednesday	Huwag Mong Buhayin Ang Bangkay
Thursday	Home Along Da Riber
Friday	Buhawi Jack

Inocente De Ti
Tuwing hapon kang paiibigin at pakikiligin.

NOYPI, IKAW BA 'TO? Tuwing Lunes
Masunurin pa ba ang Pilipino sa magulang nila?
Tatalakayin 'yan nina **Gabe Mercado** at **Toni Gonzaga**

THE CORRESPONDENTS
Naniniwala ka pa ba sa mga alamat at kasabihan?
Samahan si Karen Davila sa kaniyang pagsaliksik sa importansya ng Philippine folklore.
★ *2006 Star Awards Best Documentary Program*

SATURDAY *Special*

Cage as Eastwood; Eastwood as Huston

By Nestor U. Torre

CAGE. Texture and psychological "weight."

EASTWOOD. Proudly wears his age on his sleeve.

WHEN NICOLAS CAGE launched his acting career, he went the romantic lead route, with screen heartthrob roles in films like "It Could Happen to You" and "Moonstruck."

Soon after, however, he found acting in romantic comedies too limiting and, perhaps, too icky for words, so he modulated his movie image to enable him to star in actioners.

Age-related issues

As he continued to mature, Cage had to face up to the age-related issues that usually confront actors in their 40s or 50s. Some veteran screen thespians try to hold back the hands of time by resorting to makeovers and other interventions involving plastic surgery.

But, Cage has turned out to be made of sterner stuff. As his appearance and performance in "World Trade Center" indicate, he seemed to have taken his cue from actors like Clint Eastwood, who proudly wears his age on his sleeve—and on his craggy face

As a result, Cage may be losing some squealing teenage fans, but he's gained a lot in terms of texture and psychological "weight" as a performer. He's also well on his way to looking like a real person, instead of a movie star, so many mature viewers will be able to empathize with him.

As Eastwood's career has shown, that's a big plus factor in a maturing actor's career, because it enables him to assume an Everyman persona that "ordinary" viewers find extraordinarily appealing.

Interesting development

It could also make it easier for him to turn director, again like Eastwood. That would be a particularly interesting development, because Cage's uncle, Francis Ford Coppola, and his cousin, Sophia Coppola, are both gifted and acclaimed directors –so, Cage may have his clan's directorial genes going for him, as well!

For his part, Eastwood at 76 also appears to be moving into a new phase in his film career. Not only is he a great director, but his work in his latest film, "Flags of Our Fathers," has taken on an elevated, timeless quality that calls to mind the iconic movies megged by the illustrious John Huston.

Even more uncannily, as he continues to age, Eastwood is beginning to also look like Huston, whose own craggy countenance would look right at home on Mount Rushmore!

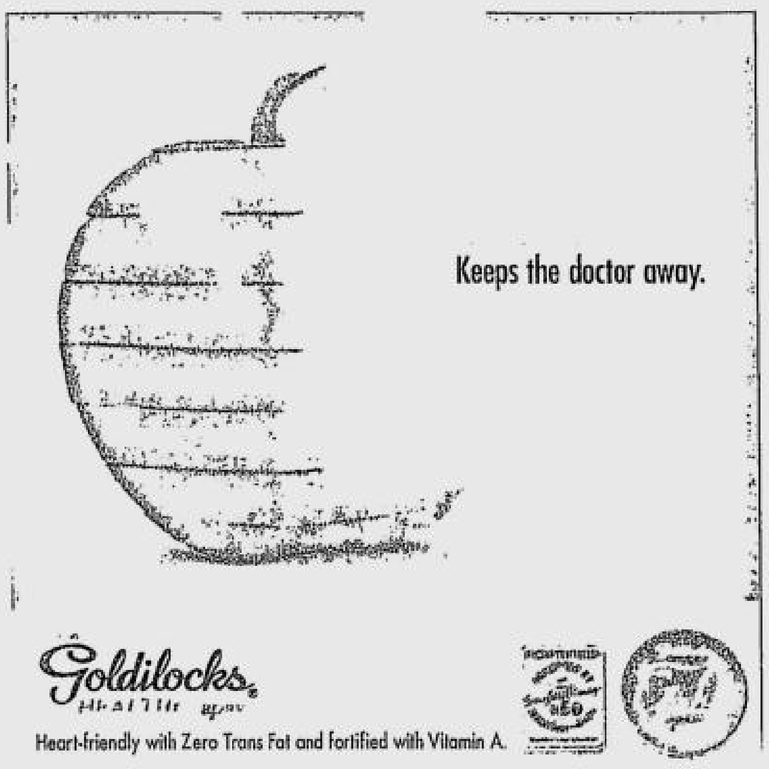
Heroism

Another shared element that binds Cage and Eastwood is the fact that their most recent films, "World Trade Center" and "Flags of Our Fathers," are both tales of heroism.

"Flags" is more forthright than Cage's starrer, because it doesn't stop at presenting its heroes, it goes on to ask questions about the nature of heroism itself.

Thus, even as "World Trade Center" has won plaudits, "Flags of Our Fathers" could turn out to be the more controversial and significant production, because it dares to go deeper into the heart of the essence of heroism itself, and why so few people seem to possess it in these confoundingly unheroic times.

HUSTON. His craggy countenance would look right at home on Mount Rushmore.



Keeps the doctor away.
Goldilocks
Heart-friendly with Zero Trans Fat and fortified with Vitamin A.

Disney's 'Nemo' finds new life as a stage musical

NEW YORK—IF YOU HAVE BEEN looking for Nemo, that rebellious fish from the 2003 animated film, "Finding Nemo," you can soon find him onstage, along with his overprotective clown fish of a father, Marlin, and the movie's other aquatic characters.

Disney is converting the undersea tale of Marlin's adventurous search for Nemo, who is scooped up by a diver, into what company officials are calling a "Broadway-caliber short-form" stage musical.

Preview

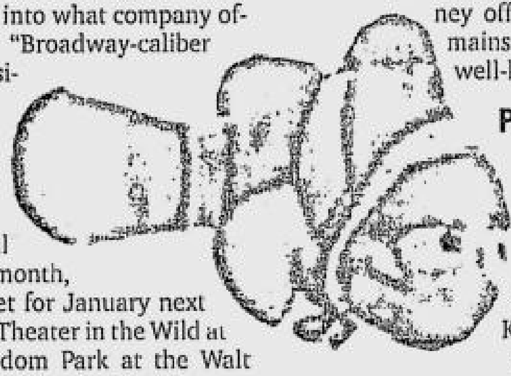
Preview performances of "Finding Nemo—The Musical are set to begin next month, and the premiere is set for January next year in the 1,500-seat Theater in the Wild at Disney's Animal Kingdom Park at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

The production marks the first time Disney has made a musical of a non-musical animated film, said Anne Hamburger, executive vice present of Disney Creative Entertainment, who was at Manhattan's Palace Theatre recently, where two animated puppets—including Nemo—were presented, and composers performed two songs from the musical.

Special effects

Using animated backdrops, lighting, sound and special effects, The Theater in the Wild will be transformed into a magical underwater wonderland populated with puppets, dancers and animated backdrops, Hamburger said. There will be tap-dancing sharks, bike-riding puppets and a punk performance by the great white shark, Bruce, Disney officials shared.

The musical will run for 30 minutes, compared to the one-hour and 44-minute movie, which grossed hundreds of millions of dollars at the box office, Hamburger said. To make the underwater environment come alive, Disney officials enlisted some of mainstream theater's most well-known names.



NEMO. From film to theater.

Puppets

Peter Brosius, artistic director of The Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is directing the musical. Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, who was co-creator and co-composer of the Tony Award-winning "Avenue Q," composed original songs for the new musical. Michael Curry, who co-created the character puppets in Broadway's "The Lion King," is creating the puppetry for the new show.

In the musical, main characters, Nemo, Marlin and Dory, will appear as animated puppets operated by live performers, Curry shared. New technology and other tricks will give the stage an "underwater" feeling. Hamburger would not say how much Disney is spending to create "Finding Nemo—The Musical." *AP*

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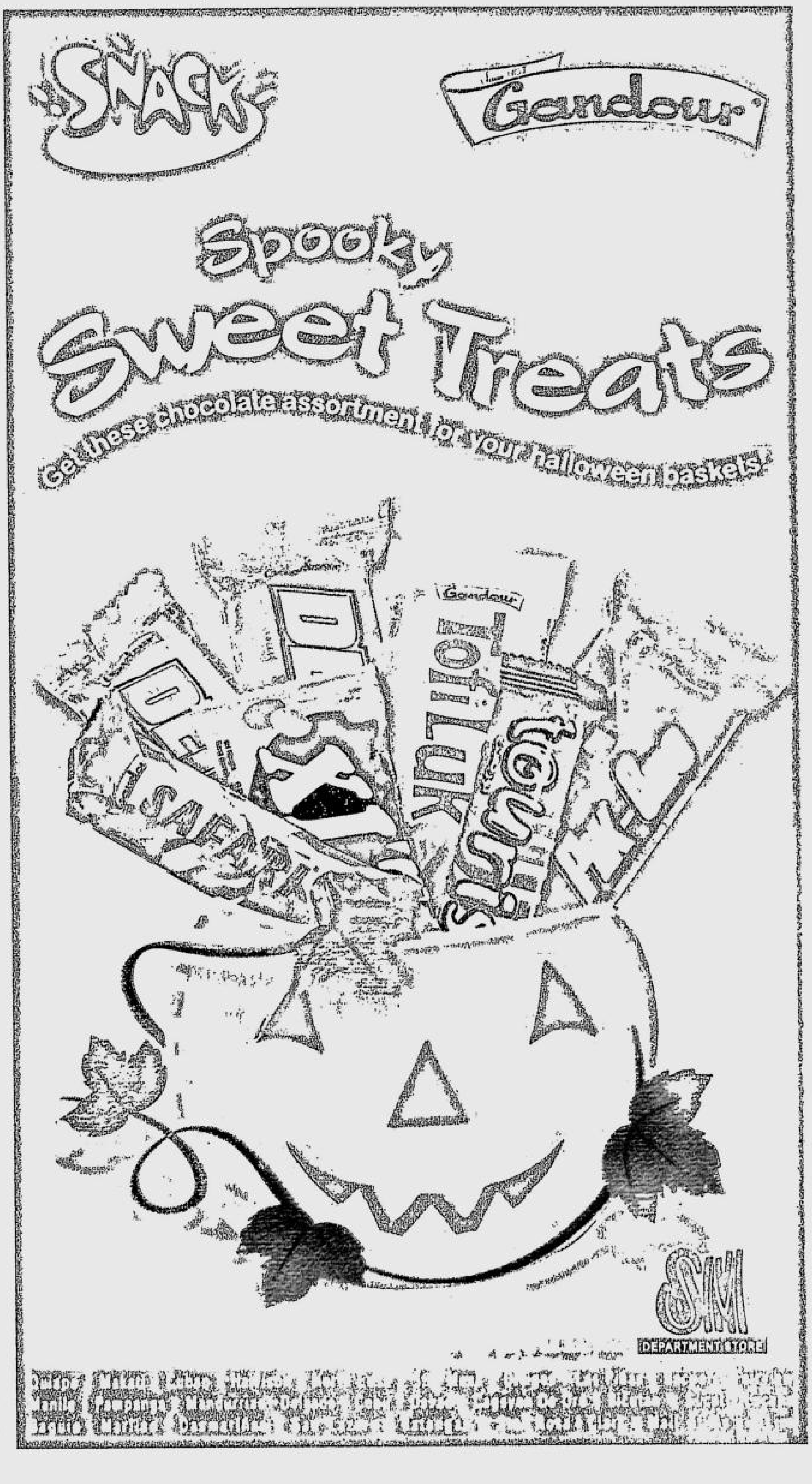
Only at 7-ELEVEN
Coke Light 330ml Can
For every purchase of any 7-Eleven Pastarrific! Pasta or Quickbites Sandwich.
Free item is valid from October 25 to 31, 2006 only and maybe claimed at all 7-Eleven stores except in Tarlac, Pangasinan and Baguio.



Snack
Gandour
Spooky Sweet Treats
Get these chocolate assortment for your halloween baskets
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

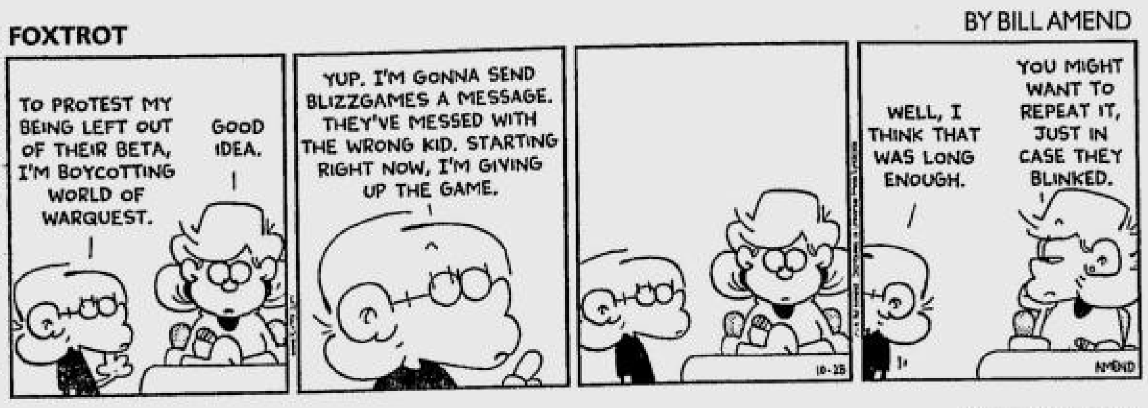
COMICRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2006

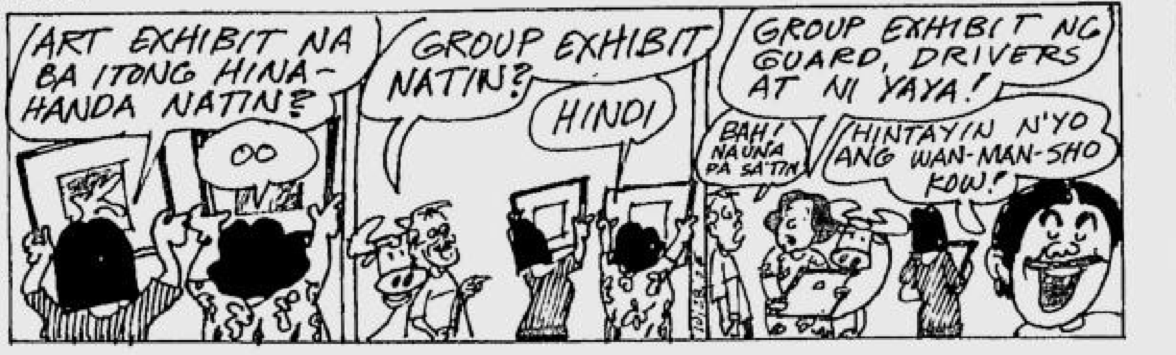
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


TO PROTEST MY BEING LEFT OUT OF THEIR BETA, I'M BOYCOTTING WORLD OF WARQUEST.
GOOD IDEA.
YUP. I'M GONNA SEND BLIZZGAMES A MESSAGE. THEY'VE MESSED WITH THE WRONG KID. STARTING RIGHT NOW, I'M GIVING UP THE GAME.
10-28
WELL, I THINK THAT WAS LONG ENOUGH.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO REPEAT IT, JUST IN CASE THEY BLINKED.
AMEND

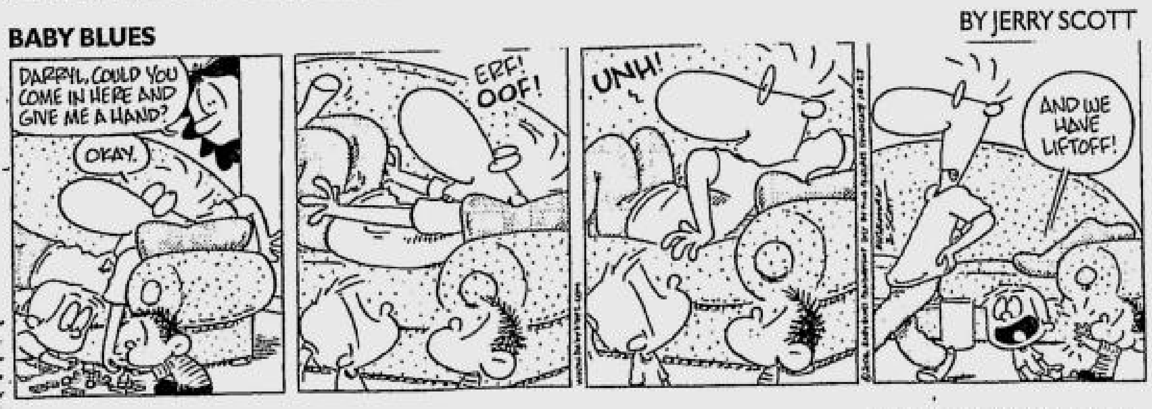
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ART EXHIBIT NA BA ITONG HINA-HANDA NATIN?
OO
GROUP EXHIBIT NATIN?
HINDI
GROUP EXHIBIT NG GUARD, DRIVERS AT NI YAYA!
BAH! NAUNA PA SA'TIN
HINTAYIN N'YO ANG WAN-MAN-SHO KOW!

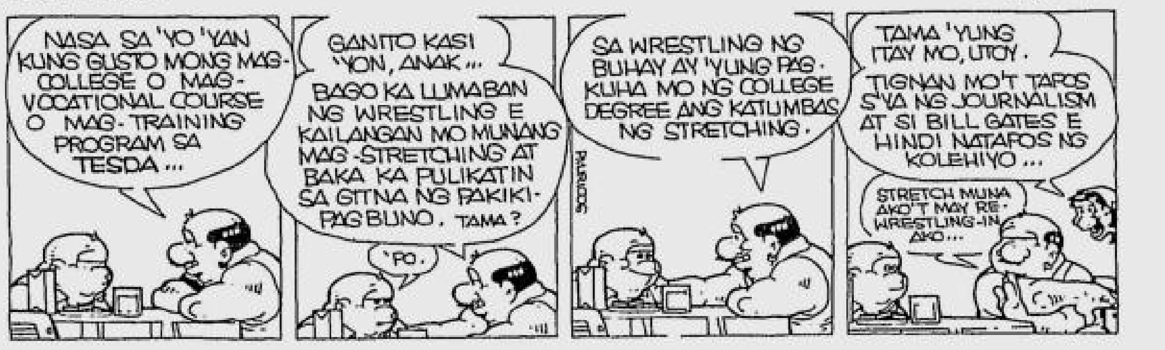
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DARRYL, COULD YOU COME IN HERE AND GIVE ME A HAND?
OKAY.
ERF! OOF!
UNH!
AND WE HAVE LIFTOFF!

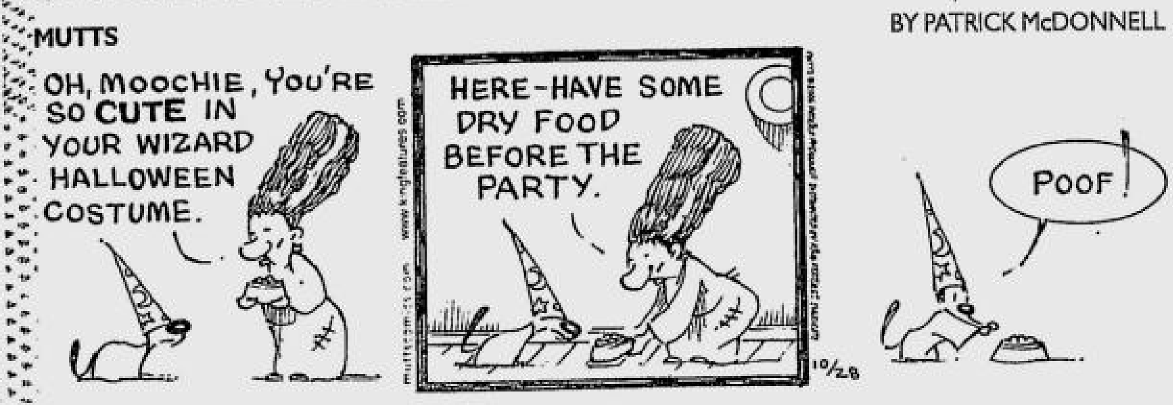
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NASA SA 'YO 'YAN KUNG GUSTO MONG MAG-COLLEGE O MAG-VOCATIONAL COURSE O MAG-TRAINING PROGRAM SA TESDA ...
GANITO KASI 'YON, ANAK ...
BAGO KA LUMABAN NG WRESTLING E KAILANGAN MO MUNANG MAG-STRETCHING AT BAKA KA PULIKATIN SA GITNA NG PAKIKI-PAGBUNO. TAMA?
'PO.
SA WRESTLING NG BUHAY AY 'YUNG PAG-KUHA MO NG COLLEGE DEGREE ANG KATUMBAS NG STRETCHING.
TAMA 'YUNG ITAY MO, UTOY.
TIGNAN MO'T TAPOS S'YA NG JOURNALISM AT SI BILL GATES E HINDI NATAPOS NG KOLEHIYO ...
STRETCH MUNA AKO'T MAY RE-WRESTLING-IN AKO...

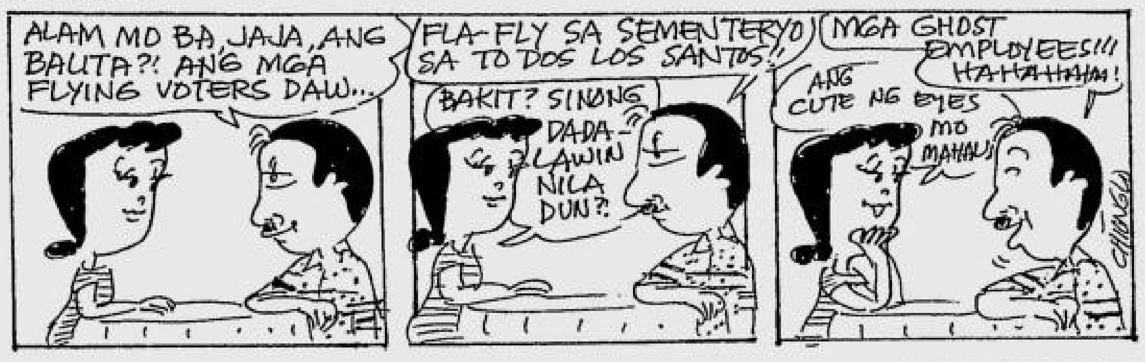
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, MOOCHIE, YOU'RE SO CUTE IN YOUR WIZARD HALLOWEEN COSTUME.
HERE-HAVE SOME DRY FOOD BEFORE THE PARTY.
POOF!
10/28

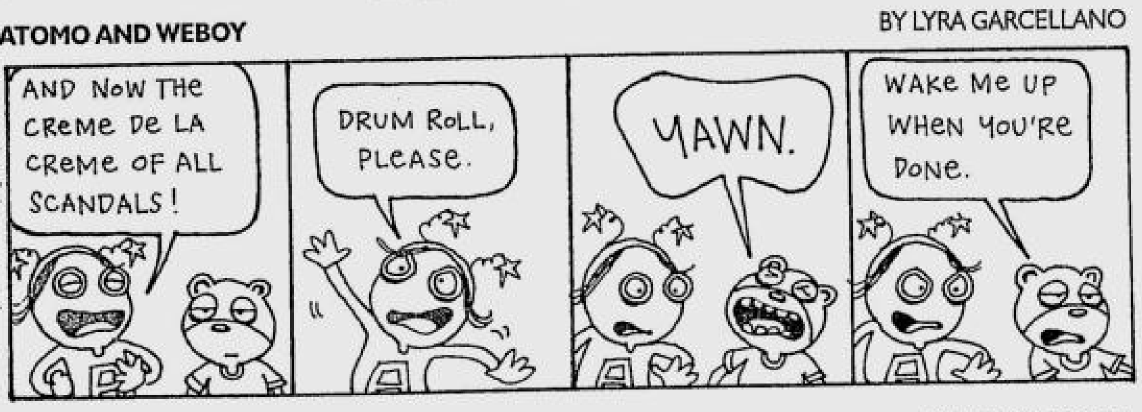
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO BA JAJA, ANG BAUTA?! ANG MGA FLYING VOTERS DAW...
FLA-FLY SA SEMENTERYO SA TODOS LOS SANTOS!!
BAKIT? SINONG DADA-LAWIN NILA DUN?!
MGA GHOST EMPLOYEES!!! HAHAHAHM!
ANG CUTE NG EYES MO MAHAL!
CHIONGLO

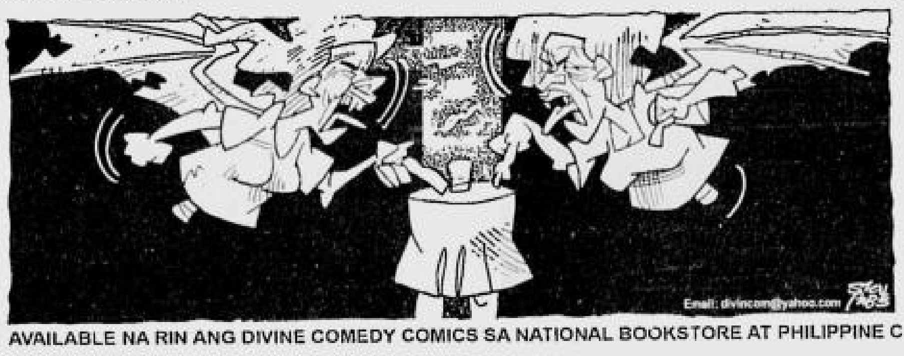
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AND NOW THE CREME DE LA CREME OF ALL SCANDALS!
DRUM ROLL, PLEASE.
YAWN.
WAKE ME UP WHEN YOU'RE DONE.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

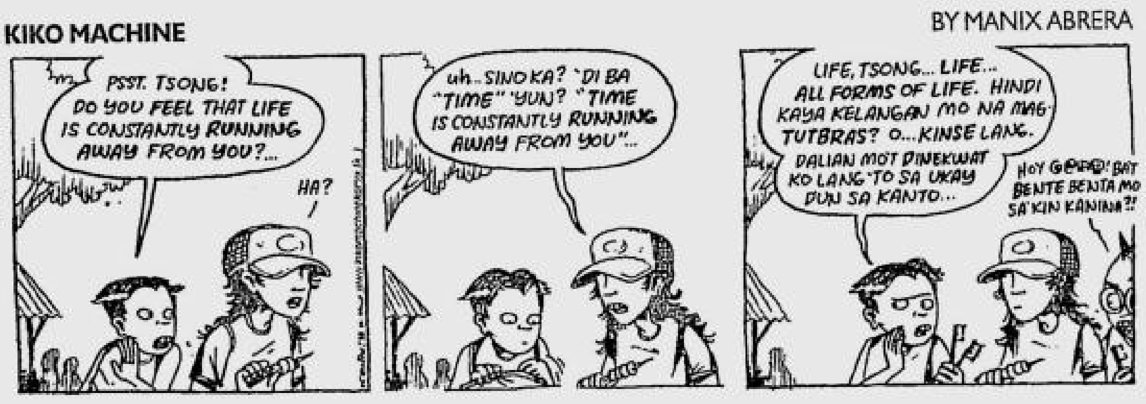

Email: divincom@yahoo.com

ISANG MAHALAGANG PAALALA PARA SA MGA MANA-NANGGAL: PALAGING LAGYAN NG NAMETAG ANG INIWANG KALAHATING KATAWAN. BAKA KASI KUNG BABALIKAN MO ITO, AANGKININ ITO NG IBANG MANANANGGAL

AVAILABLE NA RIN ANG DIVINE COMEDY COMICS SA NATIONAL BOOKSTORE AT PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

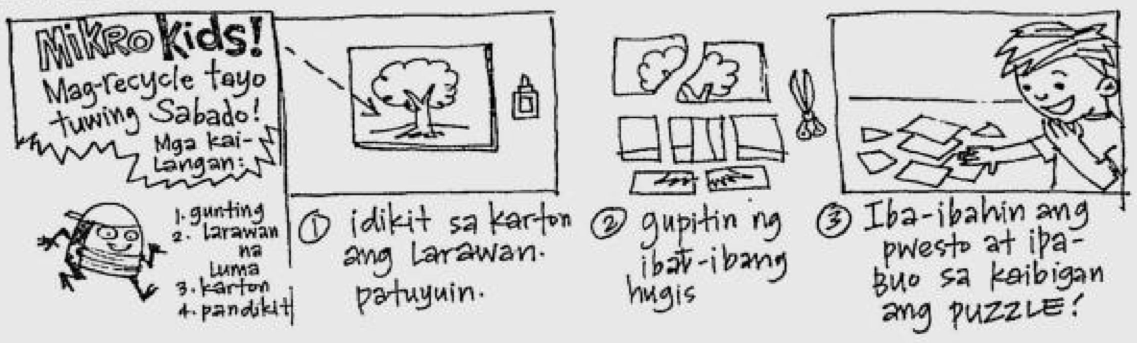
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PSST. TSONG! DO YOU FEEL THAT LIFE IS CONSTANTLY RUNNING AWAY FROM YOU?...
HA?
uh.. SINO KA? 'DI BA "TIME" 'YUN? "TIME IS CONSTANTLY RUNNING AWAY FROM YOU"...
LIFE, TSONG... LIFE... ALL FORMS OF LIFE. HINDI KAYA KELANGAN MO NA MAG-TUTBRAS? O...KINSE LANG.
DALIAN MO'T DINEKWAT KO LANG 'TO SA UKAY DUN SA KANTO...
HOY G@#%! BAT BENTE BENTA MO SA'KIN KANINA?!

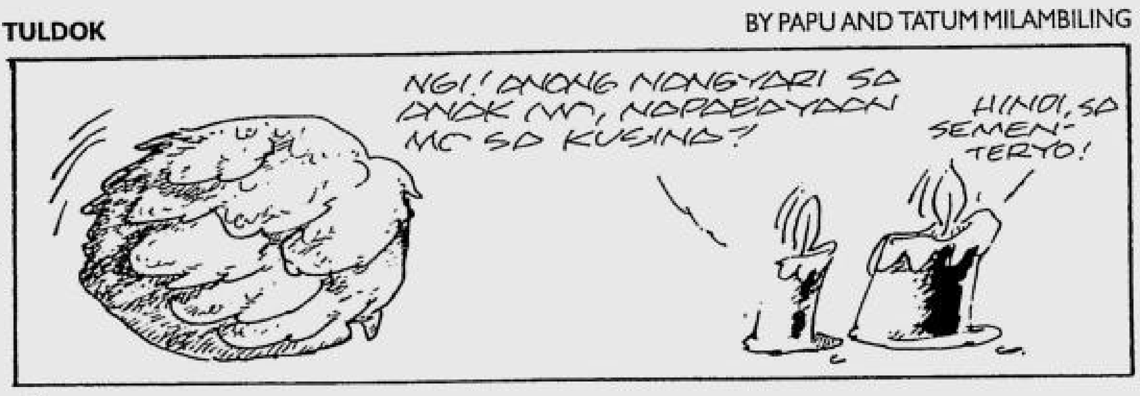
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRO Kids!
Mag-recycle tayo tuwing Sabado!
Mga kai-langan:
1. gunting
2. larawan na luma
3. karton
4. pandikit
① idikit sa karton ang larawan. patuyuin.
② gupitin ng ibat-ibang hugis
③ Iba-ibahin ang pwesto at ipa-buo sa kaibigan ang PUZZLE!

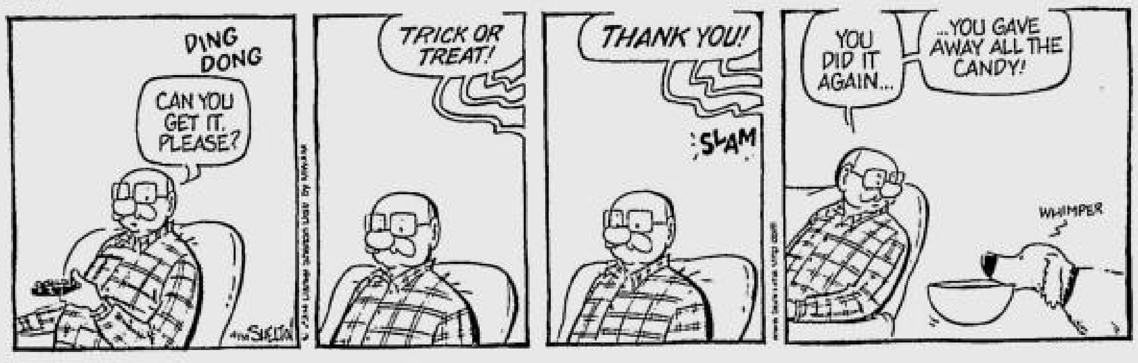
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI! ANONG NANGYARI SA ANAK MO, NAPABAYAAN MO SA KUSINA?
HINDI, SA SEMEN-TERYO!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DING DONG
CAN YOU GET IT, PLEASE?
TRICK OR TREAT!
THANK YOU!
SLAM
YOU DID IT AGAIN...
...YOU GAVE AWAY ALL THE CANDY!
WHIMPER

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13	14
15								■	16					
17								■	18					
19			■	20				■	21					
22			23	■	24			■	25					
26				27	■	28		29						
30					31	■	32			■	■	■	■	■
33						34	■	35		36	37	38	39	40
■	■	■	■	■	41		42	■	43					
44	45	46	47	48				49	■	50				
51						■	52		53	■	54			
55						■	56			57	■	58		
59						■	60				61			
62						■	63							
64						■	65							

By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

10/28/06

ACROSS
1 Bearing
9 Paper fastener
15 Poisonous shrub
16 Mocks in fun
17 Refrains
18 Hardest to find
19 Make lace
20 Go on a quest
21 Stir to action
22 Ending of a myth?
24 Swiss canton
25 Part of TLC
26 Defense grp.
28 Harry and Sherwood
30 American diving birds
32 Neurological test letters
33 Marine gastropod
35 Accidents
41 Medical pic.
43 Strong red shade
44 Lemmon movie, with "The"
50 Devoured
51 Southwestern Native Americans
52 Cow chow
54 City in Ohio or Peru
55 Sundial
56 Imitated
58 Nurse, as a drink
59 Fit for consumption
60 Positions
62 Soup dispenser
63 Trap activator
64 Take stock
65 Concentrated extracts

DOWN
1 Outer layers
2 Large tuna
3 Interstate relaxation site
4 Word before or after pack
5 Balin and Claire
6 Farewell, Jacques
7 Biology categories
8 "Tobacco Road" author Caldwell
9 Part of SALT
10 Ripper
11 Neville and Burr
12 Phony
13 Decrease
14 Aromatic compounds
23 Practical sci. classes
27 2nd-smallest state
29 LBJ's party
31 Those who evoke
34 Coll. seniors' test
36 That girl
37 Make sound
38 Done with skill and taste
39 Film's first showing
40 Nerve gaps
42 Too quickly
44 Lansbury or Bassett
45 Bamboo-eating creatures
46 Dodges
47 Speak with digressions
48 Oar holders
49 Odd-toed ungulates
53 Abominable snowmen
57 Easily misled person
61 Bristlelike appendage

Friday's Puzzle Solved

F	E	T	A	■	F	I	R	S	T	■	S	A	I	D
A	V	E	R	■	D	R	A	M	A	■	T	I	N	O
T	A	X	I	D	R	I	V	E	R	■	U	R	D	U
A	S	T	O	R	■	S	E	A	R	S	■	G	I	G
■	■	■	S	U	R	■	D	R	Y	C	O	U	G	H
A	C	R	O	B	A	T	■	■	■	A	N	N	O	Y
S	E	E	■	■	D	A	Y	C	A	R	E	■	■	■
S	O	F	T	W	A	R	E	B	R	E	A	K	I	N
■	■	■	A	E	R	A	T	E	D	■	■	O	N	O
S	T	O	L	E	■	■	■	R	E	M	A	N	D	S
Q	U	I	C	K	J	O	B	■	N	I	P	■	■	■
U	R	L	■	S	A	F	E	S	■	S	P	E	N	D
E	T	C	H	■	W	A	R	D	H	E	E	L	E	R
A	L	A	I	■	E	G	G	A	R	■	N	O	V	A
K	E	N	T	■	D	E	S	K	S	■	D	I	E	T

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10/28/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're not casual about anything; in fact, you're very thorough. You're always well-prepared for whatever you do. You need to understand how things work and what makes systems and people tick. Your curiosity about things leads you in many directions. Others find you fascinating. The year ahead is full of bright, new beginnings. Be adventurous!

Birthdate of: Joaquin Phoenix, actor; Bill Gates, philanthropist/CEO; Julia Roberts, actress

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The next few weeks are an ideal time to wrap up old business connected with insurance matters, taxes, debt and anything related to shared property. You will finish things quickly and easily.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Partners or ex-spouses from your past are back in the picture. Just remember—living well is the best revenge. (Look good at all times.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be patient with delays and snafus at work. Silly goof ups, mix-ups in communications and checks late in the mail will test your patience. Just cope.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Old lovers are back on the scene again. The next few weeks are an excellent time for parents to decide how to share the responsibilities for children.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Relatives might be camped out on your doorstep. People you haven't heard from for a while are suddenly dropping by. It's old home week, whether you want it to be or not (stock the fridge)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Pay your phone bill. Now and in the next few weeks, interruptions to your communications as well as interruptions to your transportation scene are practically inevitable. (Gulp.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): If you're looking for work, go to places you applied to before. While Mercury is retrograde, things from the past will work more easily than new beginnings in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today Mercury goes retrograde in your sign. Expect delays, transportation problems and people from the past (especially ex-partners) to appear again. It's also easy to misplace items.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be surprised how childhood memories suddenly arise during the next few weeks. You might see why you have certain knee-jerk reactions to some things

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You will run into old buddies from the past. Group connections and colleagues from professional associations are back in the picture again. (This could be helpful.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Try to finish up old business right now. The next few weeks are a poor time to begin something new. Wrap up what is already on your plate

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Expect to hear from people from afar. Remote connections are once again established. Delays and cancellations to travel plans or matters related to publishing, the media and higher education are likely.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

				6				
			3		1			
1		8				2		3
	8		7		3		1	
7								4
	4		2		9		5	
4		3				5		9
			6		4			
				8				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/28

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	1	9	4	8	3	5	6	2
3	4	6	9	5	2	1	7	8
2	5	8	7	1	6	9	3	4
4	6	7	1	3	9	2	8	5
1	2	5	8	6	4	7	9	3
9	8	3	2	7	5	4	1	6
6	3	2	5	9	1	8	4	7
5	7	1	3	4	8	6	2	9
8	9	4	6	2	7	3	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

'Simpsons' turns 18

LOS ANGELES—AS BART SIMPSON skips into his 18th season of TV mischief, fans will be glad to know that creator Matt Groening sees no end in sight for the wayward lad of "The Simpsons."

Groening's reasoning is sound: The show is fun to make, fun to watch, just earned its 23rd Emmy, and is finally jumping to the big screen with a summer 2007 movie about Bart and the rest of Springfield's first family.

Attitude

"At this point, my attitude is: As long as the people who work on the show are having a good time, let's keep doing it!," he said. "We've always tried to entertain ourselves and figured that the outside world would also be entertained if we were making ourselves laugh."

The key: Keep surprising the audience, which he acknowledged has become tougher because the show has "covered many territories" through the years. It has, in fact, brilliantly lampooned nearly every aspect of American life and culture.

"But, there's a good-natured spirit of competitiveness among the youngest writers on the staff who basically grew up watching the show and have great memories of everything that's gone before," he said.

The writers don't want to disappoint the nation—not to mention the world. The series is seen in more than 70 countries, which, along with scads of "Simpsons"-based merchandise, has made it a reported billion-dollar cartoon cash cow for News Corp., Fox's parent.

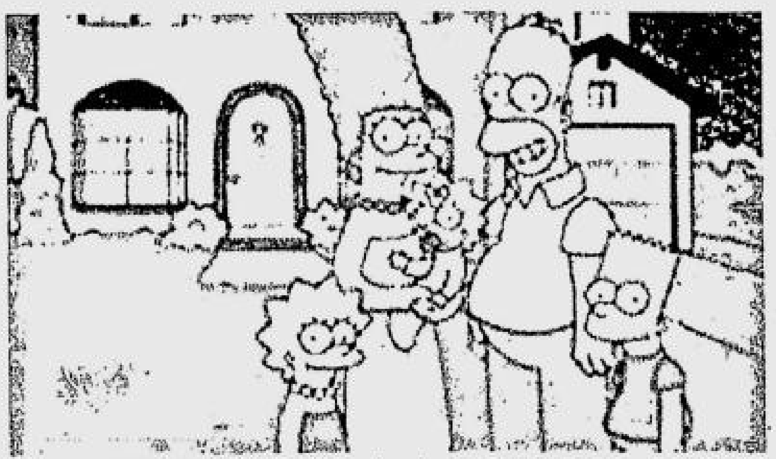
Crash and burn

"The people on the staff are determined not to be the people who will cause the show to crash and burn. We still try to top ourselves," Groening added.

"The Simpsons" has been renewed by Fox for its 19th year. The ensemble voice cast includes Nancy Cartwright as Bart, Dan Castellaneta as dad Homer, Julie Kavner as mom Marge, Yeardley Smith as sister Lisa, Harry Shearer as boss man, Mr. Burns, and Hank Azaria as police Chief Wiggum (Azaria and several others in the cast perform multiple voices).

Recently, it won its ninth Emmy for best animated series and has also received best voiceover performance, among other honors. Groening called the latest award "a shot in the arm. I thought people might be jaded but, no, they weren't!"

The program is known for its stellar guest stars, and promises not to disappoint this season. In an episode in which Lisa helps the bartender, Moe, become a poet, she encounters Gore Vidal and Tom Wolfe, voiced by the literary giants themselves. "They don't usually do cartoons. You don't see them on 'SpongeBob,'" Groening slyly noted. *AP*



LONG-RUNNING cartoon series has lampooned nearly every aspect of American life and culture.

Cycle of birth and death

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

LIVING AND DYING ARE SUBJECTS that concern intelligent beings. Here are insights into these topics:

The body is but material dust, and shall be scattered in all directions after death. It's a temporary garment of the eternal soul. Birth and death go hand in hand: A death sentence is automatically handed down upon birth.

Worldly possessions

Death is torture for the materialistic soul; it detaches man from worldly possessions. He feels deep pain for losing things he can't own permanently. Materialistic living binds us to the cycle of birth and death. Spiritual life leads us back to our home beyond the material sphere.

A sage lives a full and meaningful life; he departs from the world as an enlightened and liberated being. When a person leads an animalistic life, he is chained to the cycle of birth and death, and suffers the consequences of his actions.

Dying is as easy as living for the self-realized soul. He knows who he is, where to go, and how to attain happiness. It's only the body that dies, not the soul. A tomb houses the material remnants left behind by the imperishable soul. There's no one residing inside it.

Existence

Death is but a door to another chapter of our existence. It's a step up or a step down. A wise sage always seeks a higher level of existence. An active being cannot stand the idea that death is equivalent to eternal rest—a concept of death that is repulsive to happy, enlightened souls who find joy in loving service to the Supreme.

ANIB DONATES TO ABS-CBN

ROBERT Hernandez (2nd from right), president of the Alyansa ng Industriyang Bigas (Anib) Inc., presents a pledge of donation for 50 bags of rice to the Sagip Kapamilya Project of ABS-CBN Foundation, represented by Jocelyn Sau. Also in the photo are (from left to right), Mary Ann Magno, Ven Agam and Juan Mundin. Anib's national officers were inducted into office by Vice President Noli de Castro last Oct. 12 at Club Filipino.

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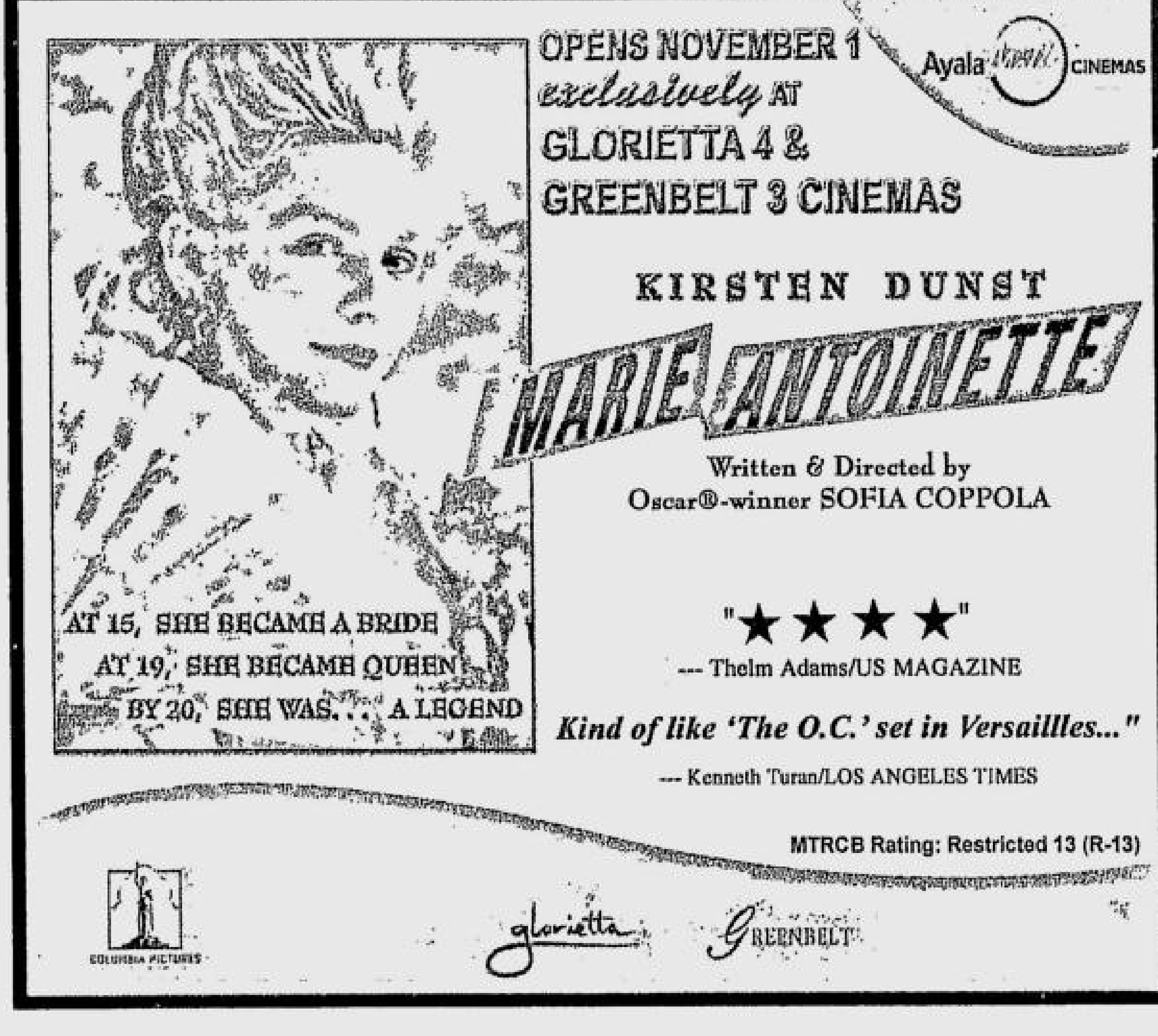

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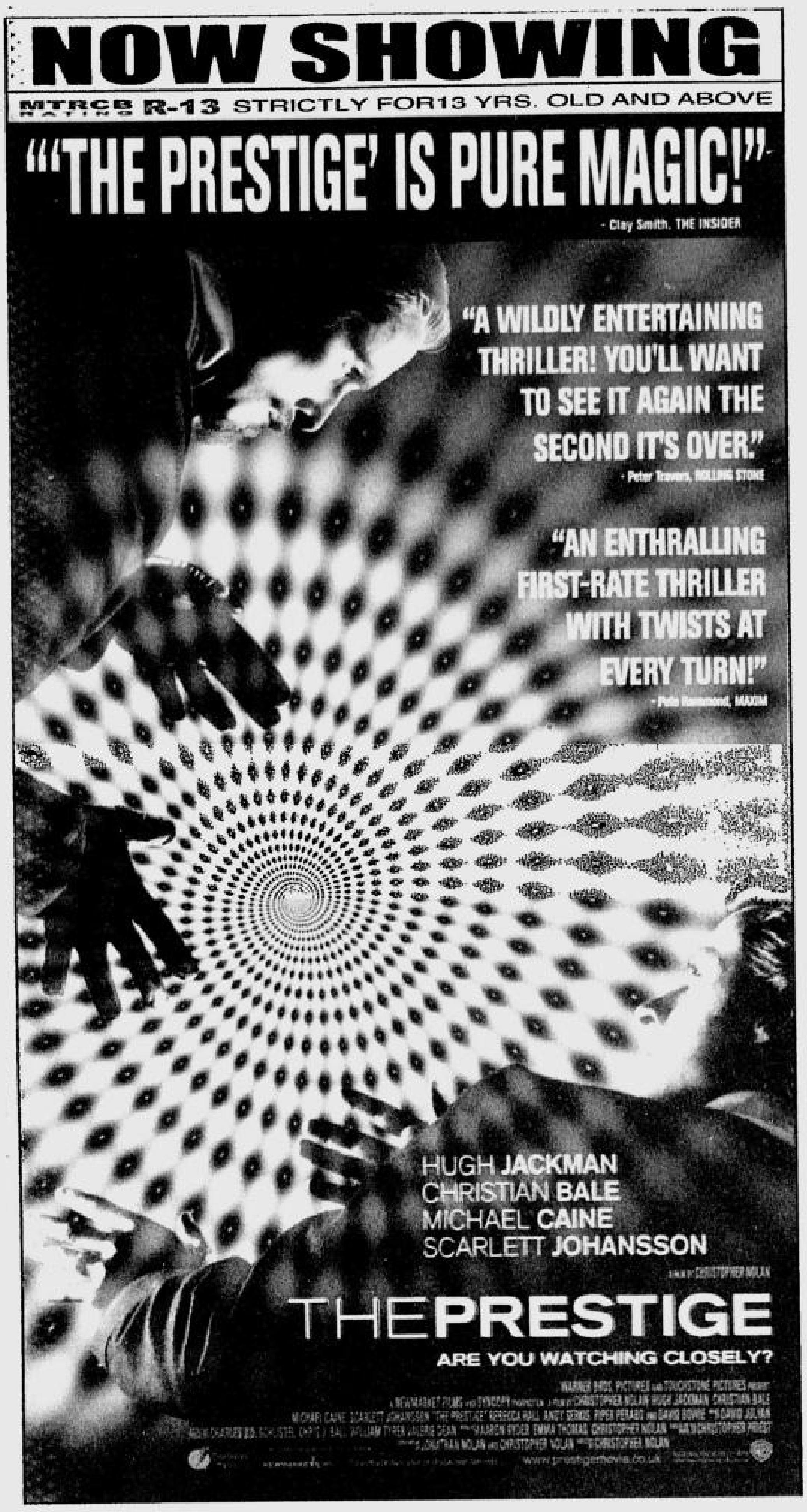
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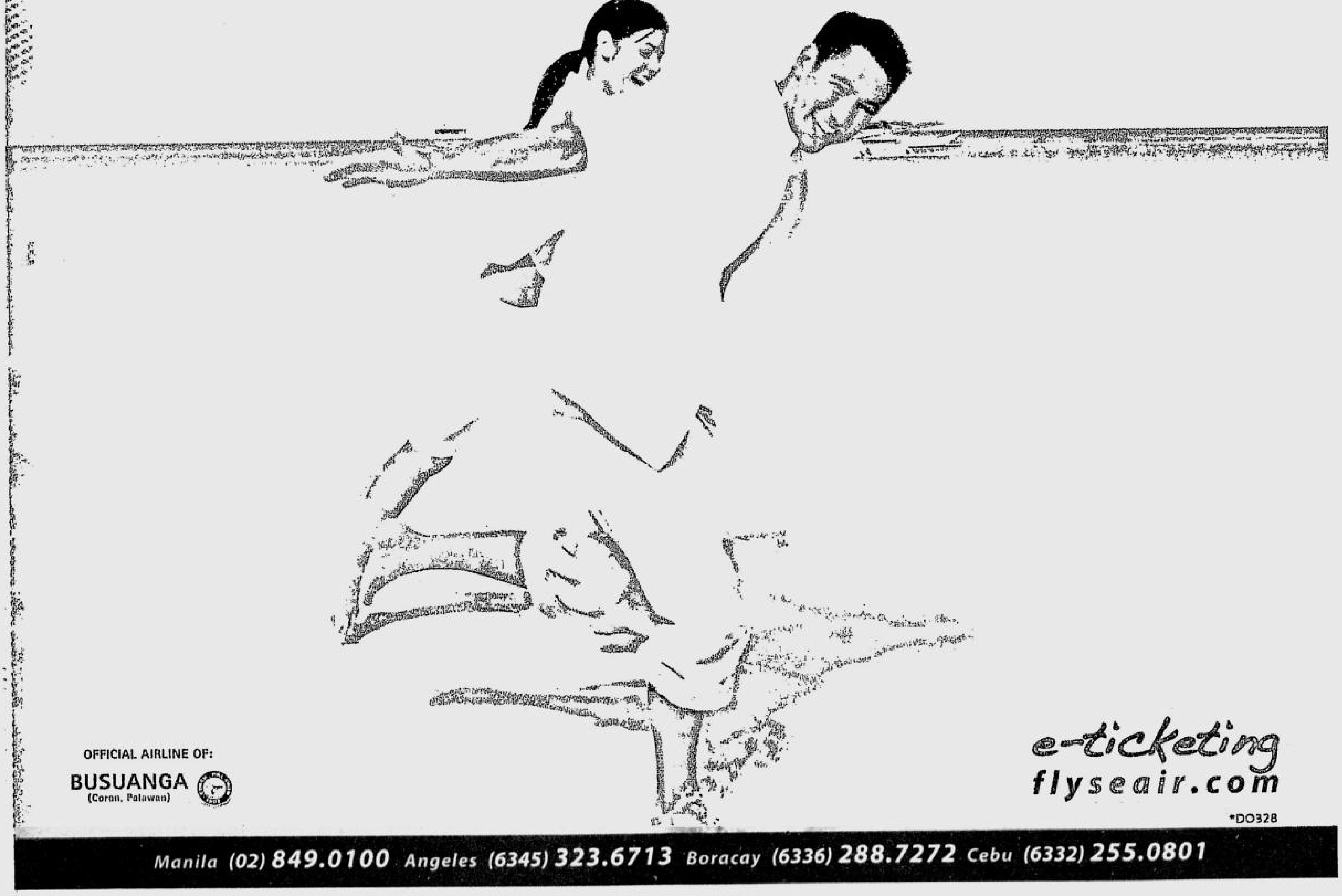
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More hits than misses in Hotdog retrospective

By Rito P. Asilo

IN "HOTSILOG: THE A.S.A.P. HOTDOG COMpilation," stars of ABS-CBN's popular Sunday musical-variety show reintroduce the timeless tunes of the popular '80s band, Hotdog.

But, unlike the recent "Kami nAPO Muna" album, the former wisely keeps the group's lovely, radio-friendly songs in their original melodic rhythm and format—for most of its 14 tracks, anyway.

Purists

If the Apo Hiking Society retrospective—which featured the country's top pop, rock and alternative bands—bravely experimented with a refreshing, multi-genre sound that alienated some purists, the Hotdog collection keeps the changes to a minimum by merely adjusting the songs' musical arrangements to give them a more contemporary and homogenized sound. Result: The album has more winners than losers.

Gary Valenciano delivers a strutting, guitar-driven rendition, boosted further by the performer's distinctive rhythm-and-groove style. Another dance-floor winner is Sheryn Regis' straightforward version of "Bongga Ka Day," which allows the petite belter to play around when the song reaches its higher parts—without breaking its melodic form.

Toni Gonzaga may not have the strongest voice in pop music. Certainly, the padded vocals in her records prove that the multi-media star acknowledges the heft and body her voice needs, but she sure knows how to choose her songs, arrangers—and sound engineers. Case in point: Her winsome, pop-and-hip-hop fusion of "Annie Batungbakal," featuring Marcus.

Her recent remake of Donna Cruz's "Kapag Tumibok ang Puso" for the soundtrack of the movie with the same title was one of the best things about the film. Her rendition of Cherie Gil's "(I Love You) Boy" for the teen flick, "First Day High," also deserves special mention. What's next, Toni? Dina Bonnevie's "Bakit Ba Ganyan?," Maricel Soriano's "Oh My Papa" or Snooky Serna's "Bata Pa Si Sabel"?

Sam Milby's rock-inspired vocals, however, zap the bittersweet quality of "Langit na Naman." (And whose brilliant idea was it to change the lyrics, "'*Di 'pagpapalit kahit kay* Rio Locsin" to "'*Di 'pagpapalit kahit kaninong bituin*," anyway? Rio is even lovelier now than during her reign as the country's top sexy star in the '80s).

Rachelle Anne Go ("Panaginip"), Nina ("O, Lumapit Ka") and Christian Bautista ("Dying to Tell You," one of only two English songs) come up with well-sung versions.

But, it's Mark Bautista and an endearingly playful Anne Curtis who deliver one of the collection's most enjoyable tracks, "Beh, Buti Nga."

Biggest surprise

The biggest surprise in the whole package is teen queen, Sarah Geronimo, who shines the brightest in her sweet, no-frills version of "Perslab." The girl hardly uses her famous scooping vibrato in the track!

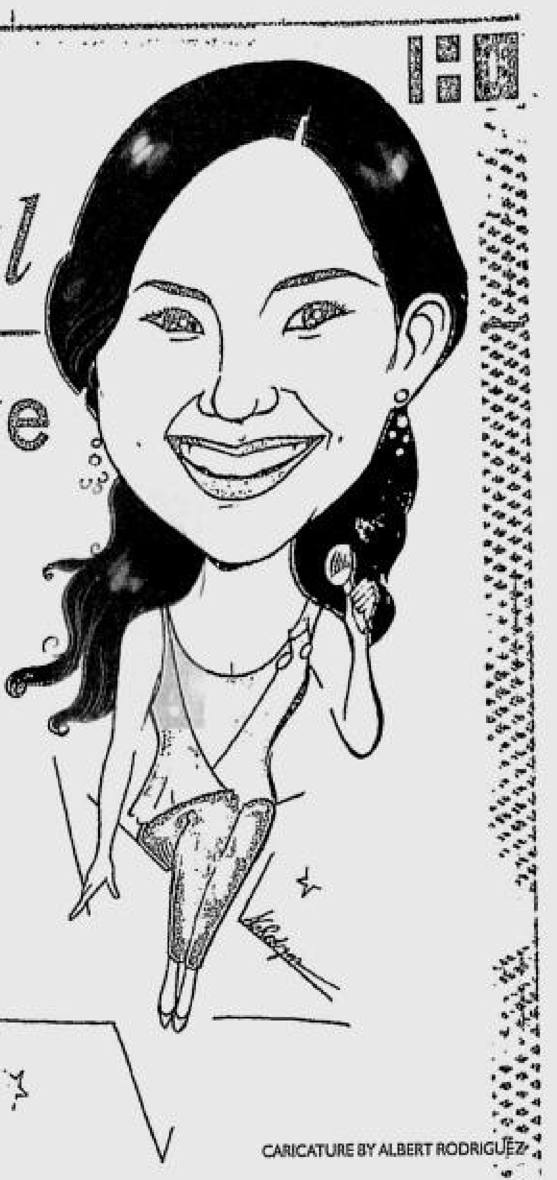
Early on in her career, despite her powerful pipes, Geronimo couldn't really win critical adulation, because she kept pushing for the high notes to please record-buying fans. She also has a penchant for mimicking the styles and vocal affectations of pop music's *birit* queens like Celine Dion. "Perslab" shows there's hope for young Sarah, after all!

Piolo Pascual has also improved as a singer, and sings a serviceable remake of "Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng Buhay Ko"—although he falters everytime he tries some improvisational curlicues. At least, the characteristic groan isn't obvious here…

Pleasant voice

Jed Madela has one of the music industry's best and most powerful pipes, but he fails to catch our attention in "Ikaw Pa Rin." Wrong choice of song, perhaps? Nikki Gil ("Kasi Naman") has a pleasant voice, but its vocal register is not distinctive enough.

Appropriately capping the sleekly-produced album is a duet by one of Hotdog's top honchos, Rene Garcia, and Zsa Zsa Padilla. Zsa Zsa started her colorful recording career as one of Hotdog's vocalists more than two decades ago, before she found solo singing stardom *via* her memorable debut album, "Am I Your Kind of Woman?"



GERONIMO. Sweet, no-frills version of "Perslab."

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Getting to know Cinemalaya 2007's semi-finalists

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN THE LIST OF 25 SEMI-FINALists in the full-length category of the 2007 Cinemalaya alternative film competition was recently announced, it generated unusual interest and excitement among movie buffs.

As one of them put it, "Judging by some of the names of the 25 story proponents who will move on to the screenplay level, it's going to be a strong contest. In fact, it can even be said that it's going to be a competition among winners!"

Some other film buffs agree with his perception. What do they mean by a "competition of winners?"

'Pedigree'

They elaborate by pointing to the "pedigree" of some of the semi-finalists:

Joel Ruiz ("Sa Gawing Dito, Tabingi ang Mundo") directed "Mansyon," which won the best short film award in Cinemalaya 2005.

Aureaus Solito ("Pisay") directed "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," which has won numerous awards, both here and abroad.

Adolf Alix Jr. ("Gima") won the tope prize in the Film Development Foundation's national screenwriting contest when he was only 17 years old, and megged "Donsol" for Cinemalaya 2006.

James Arnold Ladioray ("2,999") has won a Palanca screenplay award.

Another Palanca winner is **Jeanne Lim**, whose "Gulong" (proponents, Romualdo and Anna Liza Fajardo) garnered a playwriting award before it was modified into a film plot for the Cinemalaya competition.

Previous credits

Our sources also cite the previous credits of some other semi-finalists:

Reggie Gulle ("At Nilikha ng Diyos si Hilario Espiritusanto") is a Roadrunnwe editor and short filmmaker.

Jade Castro ("Endo") penned the script for the recent Star Cinema movie, "First Day High."

Dennis Marasigan ("Tukso") is a theater actor-writer-director, has directed the full-length film, "Sa North Diversion Road," and is the incoming artistic director of the CCP's Tanghalang Pilipino.

Ronald Mangubat ("Tatay na si Totoy") was a finalist in the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines' screenwriting competition.

FIRST CINEMALAYA BEST PICTURE WINNER, "PEPOT ARTISTA'S" LEAD ACTOR ELIJAH CASTILLO AND WRITER-DIRECTOR DOY DEL MUNDO. Which of the tilt's contenders next year will similarly romp off with the top prize?

Reynaldo Manalo ("Mga Ina, Mga Anak" is another FDFP screenwriting finalist. His entry's director, **Rito Asilo**, is the associate artistic director of the New Voice Theater Company.

Jay Abello ("Ligaw Liham") is an assistant director for TV and films.

Choreographer

Rody Vera ("Hubad") penned the screenplay for the full-length mainstream film, "Sisid." His co-proponent, **Denisa Reyes**, is a choreographer of note.

Paul Morales ("Pagguhit ng Bilog") is also a choreographer, and has been involved in short and indie filmmaking.

Charliebebs Cohetia ("Kung Giunsa Pagbuhat ang Binisayang Law-uy") is an editor and short and indie filmmaker.

Agnes de Guzman ("Atin Cu Pung Parol") is the head writer of the "Maynila" drama series.

John Nepomuceno ("Pagluha ng Talon") directs commercials and projects for NGOs and other organizations.

Jim Libiran ("Tribu") is a short filmmaker.

Ed Lejano Jr. ("Sinungaling na Buwan") teaches film and has made a full-length movie for Regal.

The remaining semi-finalists also have good things going for them. They are **Andrea Anfela Shy** ("Sa Wakas, Ang Simula"), **Noel Mendoza** ("Puerto"), **Anril Tiatco** ("Hagulgol ng Balangiga"), **Katrina Flores** ("Still Life"), **Charlotte Averiz/Gale Diangco** ("Fidel"), **Abdulmari Imao Jr.** ("Ang Biyahe: Pasadang Langit"), and **Alexis Amario** ("Broken Chords").

Achievements

Not the least of their achievements is the fact that their synopses have ended up among the competition's 25 semi-finalists—out of a field of 240 entries (some of which, it must be noted, were penned by well-known film practitioners). So, congratulations all around.

But, it should be pointed out that only 10 of the 25 semi-finalists will be chosen (based on their full screenplays) as official Cinemalaya 2007 finalists, each winning a P500,000 seed production grant from Tonyboy Cojuangco.

So, it's important that all semi-finalists submit the best screenplays possible. After the initial huzzahs, the hard work continues.

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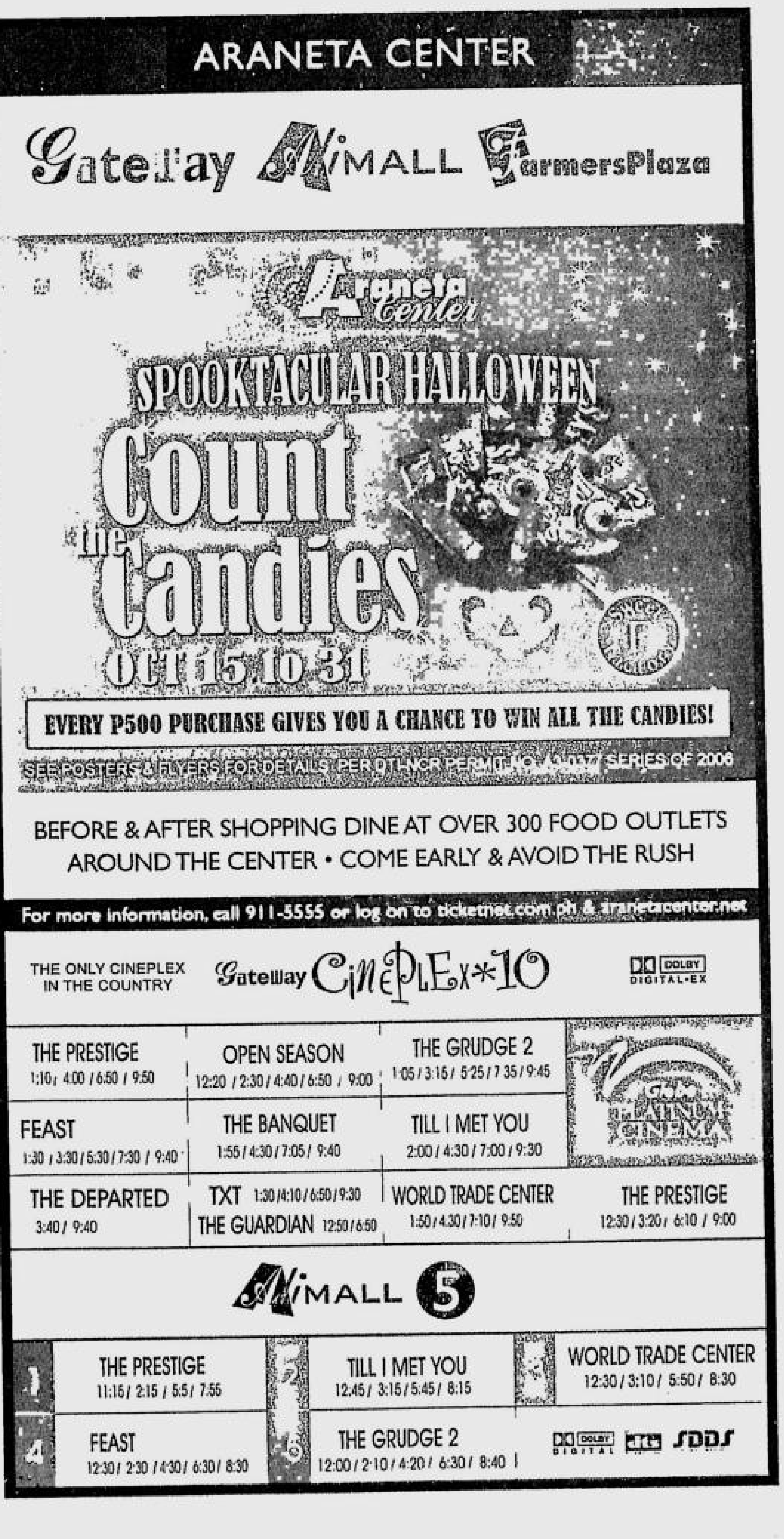

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Short and sweet directorial debut for Jennifer Aniston

LOS ANGELES—WHAT JENnifer Aniston really wanted to do was direct. And what the TV and film star wants, she usually gets.

The result, "Room 10," played out at a star-strewn Hollywood premiere recently at the Directors Guild of America.

The short film, co-directed by Aniston and Andrea Buchanan, features Robin Wright Penn as a nurse, whose relationship with an emergency-room patient (Kris Kristofferson) changes her life.

Aniston waited a long time to get behind the camera, the 37-year-old actress told AP Television.

Episode

"I was scheduled to direct an episode of 'Friends.' Then, I got 'The Good Girl.' So, you either do the movie, or you get a bad direction of 'Friends.' But because I was doing them at the same time, I lost my directing shot. Why I never did it again after that, I don't know. It's just timing."

Aniston was in an upbeat mood as she strolled through the press gauntlet. On "Oprah," she revealed she is still with boyfriend Vince Vaughn, though he was not there on the arrivals line.

No, she told Winfrey, she hasn't had breast implants. (She said she simply gained 10 pounds. But, yes, she *does* have a new bundle of joy at home: A five-month-old German shepherd puppy named Dolly.

Hottest topic

With the gossip air cleared, Aniston's work was the hottest topic on the arrivals line. "What I really like about Aniston is that she knows what she wants," noted Kristofferson, who has worked with such directing heavyweights as Martin Scorsese, Alan J. Pakula and Tim Burton. "She's not afraid to tell an old guy like me what to do and how to do it."

Penn, who attended the premiere with actor-director husband, Sean, said Aniston "was very loving, calm, and knew what she wanted. She's not aggressive—meaning mean. But, she was assertive with her vision, and made sure that everybody was in the team together."

Magazine

"Room 10" was one of three films that resulted from "Glamour" magazine's "Reel Moments" competition, which began with stories submitted to the magazine.

Besides Aniston and Buchanan, actress Bryce Dallas Howard ("The Village") and comic-writer Carol Leifer (TV's "Seinfeld") each directed "Reel Moments" shorts that also debuted recently.

Aniston's summer blockbuster, "The Break-Up," arrived on DVD this month. She's credited as a producer on Scorcese's widely acclaimed box-office hit, "The Departed." And she's working on the thriller, "Wanted," in which she'll act alongside Meryl Streep. *AP*

ANISTON. Assertive with her vision.

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• From page H5

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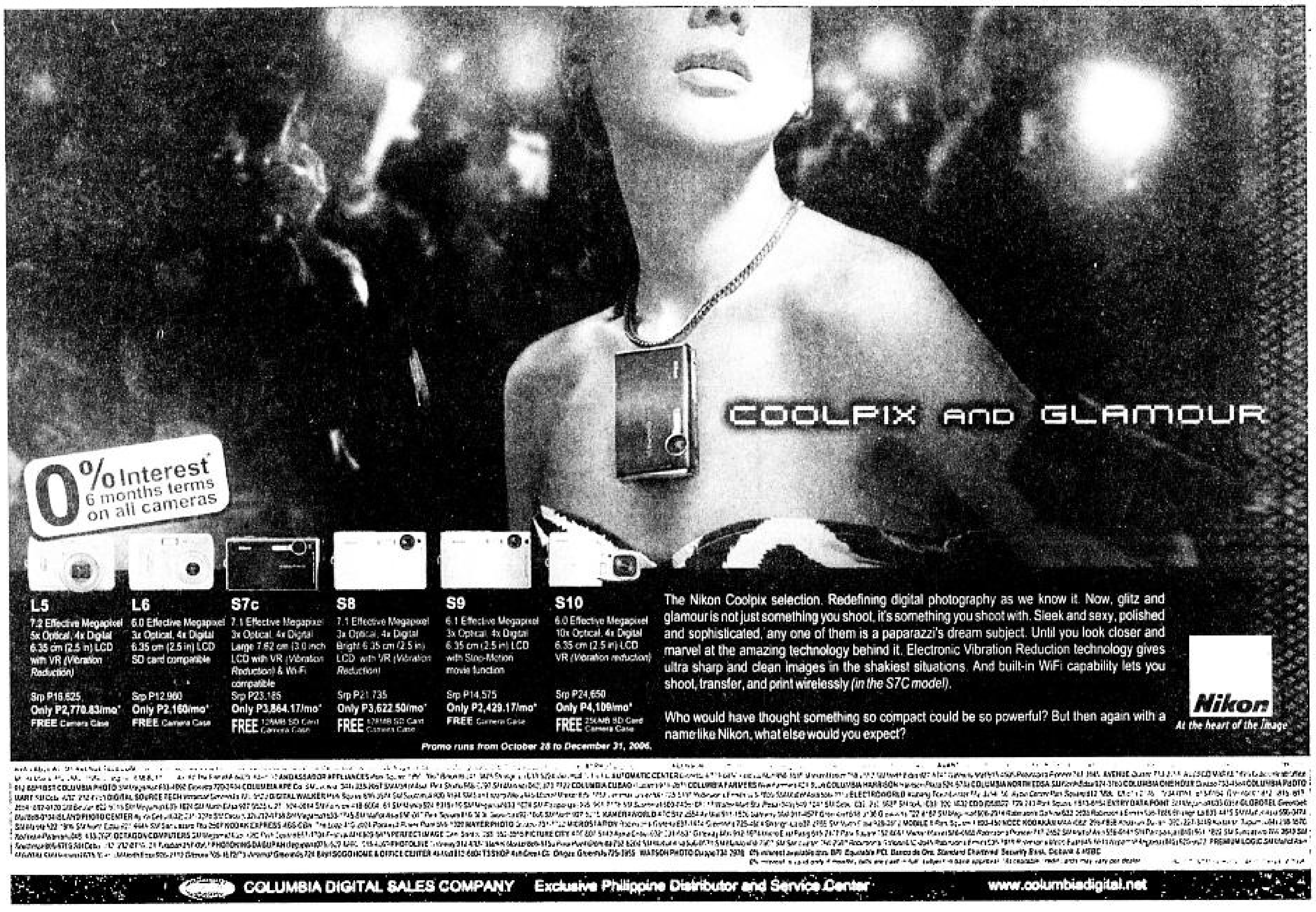
MINA. Shows at Araneta Coliseum and Clark Expo.

Movies on TV

On Cinemax, today at 8:25 a.m., "Pleasantville." Tomorrow at 8:10 a.m., "The School of Rock." 6 p.m., "The Last Samurai." Oct. 30 at 1:35 p.m., "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever." Oct. 31 at 3:25 p.m., "The Guns of Navarone." 10:55 p.m., "Arlington Road." 2:35 p.m., "Cape Fear." Nov. 1 at 11 a.m., "Shane." 4:25 p.m., "Arabesque." Nov. 2 at 2:30 p.m., "Alfie" (1966). Nov. 3 at 2:40 p.m. "Land of the Pharaohs."

On HBO, today at 7 p.m., "Back to the Future, 2." Tomorrow at 11:20 p.m., "Wag the Dog." Oct. 30 at 12 noon, "Stand by Me." Oct. 31 at 8:15 a.m., "The World According to Garp." 9 p.m., "The Manchurian Candidate." Nov. 1 at 3:30 p.m., "Spider-Man 2." Nov. 2 at 1:45 p.m., "Vanity Fair." 7:15 p.m., "Losing Isaiah." 10:40 p.m., "Jerry Maguire." Nov. 3 at 9 p.m., "The Bourne Supremacy."



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Promo runs from October 28 to December 31, 2006.

The Nikon Coolpix selection. Redefining digital photography as we know it. Now, glitz and glamour is not just something you shoot, it's something you shoot with. Sleek and sexy, polished and sophisticated, any one of them is a paparazzi's dream subject. Until you look closer and marvel at the amazing technology behind it. Electronic Vibration Reduction technology gives ultra sharp and clean images in the shakiest situations. And built-in WiFi capability lets you shoot, transfer, and print wirelessly *(in the S7C model)*.

Who would have thought something so compact could be so powerful? But then again with a name like Nikon, what else would you expect?

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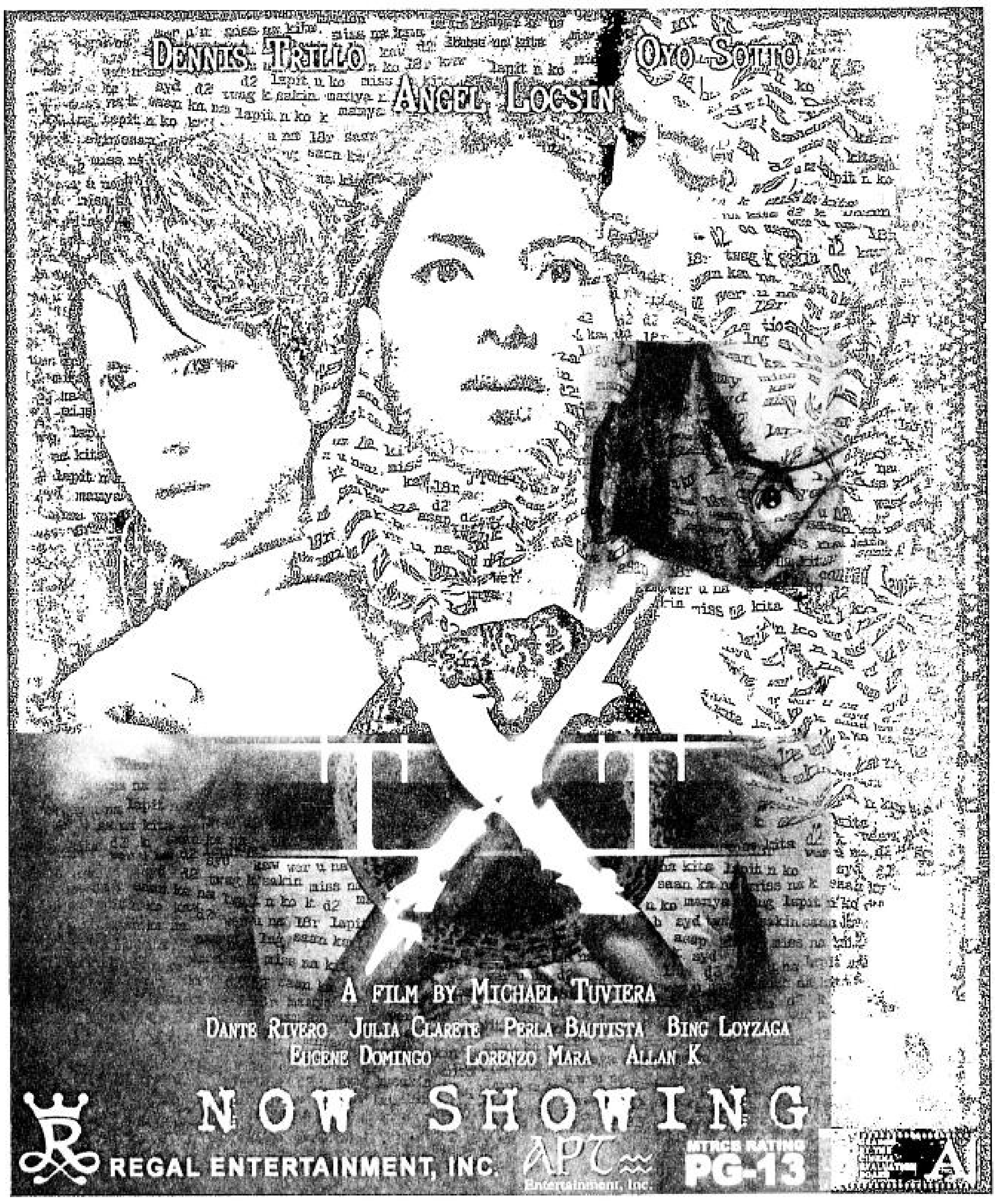
FACT: THE BIGGEST AND DEADLIEST CARNIVOROUS SNAKES ARE FOUND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
~The Guinness Book of World Records
BIGGER THAN 'ANACONDA'
MORE LETHAL THAN 'SNAKES ON A PLANE'
OPENS NOV. 1
EATEN ALIVE
BOA



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OYO SOTTO
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APT Entertainment, Inc.
MTRCB RATING PG-13

Samahan celebs epitomize gracious era of fashion, friendship

PEREZ, ROCES AND ROMERO. Beauty and class—plus.

By Behn Cervantes

IT WAS BARBARA PEREZ who first told me about her group, *Samahan*. She said she would invite me to one of its intimate get-togethers. The group is made up of stars from the vibrant '50s.

The group, Perez shared, gets together for socials and retreats. Aside from socializing and reminiscing about the "good ole days," its members also support advocacies worthy of their esteemed names.

Colorful figures

Naturally, their reunions include updates on one another's lives and careers. With colorful figures like Perez, Susan Roces, Gloria Romero, Delia Razon, Marichu Maceda, Sarah Calvin, Lilia Dizon, Liberty Ilagan, Gloria Sevilla, Nikki Ross, Boots Anson-Roa, and the late Helen Cruz, as well as "gentlemen of the old school" like Charlie Davao, and Ramil and Pepito Rodriquez, how can tasty tidbits of political and professional gossip be far behind? Pempe Rodrigo organizes these get-togethers, because she has maintained close ties with the stars of yesteryears.

When Barbara invited me to join the group, I hesitated. After all, I didn't belong to that revered circle of stars in the '50s. Of course, I was very familiar with them, but precisely because I was aware of the social and professional significance of that period, I realized that these celebrities should be given the respect due them.

Invitation

As a UP freshman, I remember Joonee Gamboa taking Lino Brocka and me to the guarded Gilmore studio, upon the invitation of Maning Borlaza. Jonee's co-actor/friend at Arena Theater under National Artist Dr. Severino Montano was then an assistant scriptwriter in that studio known for its very beautiful stars and macho actors. Dr. Perez took it upon himself to turn unknown beauties and dashing men into stars.

Even in Hollywood, the sexy likes of Ava Gardner and Marilyn Monroe had given way to classy ladies like Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly. The former was a ballet dancer with royalty in her veins, while the latter was a Philadelphia heiress—who never went around without the proper pillbox hat and short white gloves.

Models

So, Doc Perez decided that the likes of Barbara, Susan, Gloria Romero, Amalia Fuentes, Daisy Romualdez, and Marlene Dauden should also vivify the same class. These *mestiza* beauties not only looked beautiful—they also conducted themselves as John Powers models did:

They spoke correctly, and knew how to comport themselves among Manila's 400 at dinners and formal balls. In effect, Doc Perez single-handedly changed the popular perception that *artistas* were a niche lower than the acceptable norm. After he had transformed them, they mingled with high society's top habitués.

Contract stars

Because he made sure his beautiful contract stars dressed in *haute couture* and behaved like ladies at society events, Gloria, Amalia, Paraluman, Barbara and Susan were soon handpicked by top designers like Manny Valera, Pitoy Moreno and Ben Farrales to model their creations in the Manila Hotel's widely-publicized fashion shows for charity.

After all, didn't Amalia look like Elizabeth Taylor? Didn't Barbara resemble Audrey Hepburn? Didn't Susan remind oldtimers of the iconic Susan Magalona? And, didn't Marlene Dauden bring to mind Gina Lollobrigida and Sophia Loren?

History

Such are the history and the distinct hues of *Samahan*. Since the group is also about a particular era, the stars soon invited beauties of that period (like Encarnita Abierra of Fashion on Wings, Miss Caltex Elsa Payumo, and Lollie Mara, who certainly has the feel, look and understanding of that period).

During the mass for Helen, I went with Lollie. Many of *the Samahan's* members were there. The bond was apparent. A word here and a phrase there would bring us back to a period long gone, but nevertheless remembered through its members who epitomized that special era.

Enhancing quality of education through mass media

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE USE OF CARABAOS, TV sets and satellite dishes to enhance the quality of basic education was recently highlighted in a series of presentations in the United States.

Rina Lopez-Bautista, president of Knowledge Channel Foundation, Inc. (KCFI), shared her experience in the use of cable television to improve comprehension of basic subjects in elementary and high schools in the country.

Session

Addressing the roundtable session on science and technology at the 59th Annual United Nations Department of Public Information and Non-government Organization Conference in New York last Sept. 7, Lopez-Bautista recounted her group's "adventures" in bringing the Knowledge Channel's curriculum-based programs from the northernmost to the southernmost portions of the Philippines.

"We even had to employ carabaos to deliver TV sets and satellite dishes to schools. Outrigger boats had to carry our equipment through pirate-infested waters," Rina added.

LOPEZ-BAUTISTA. A helping hand for the poor.

"But, as we saw the bright faces of children watching educational TV for the first time, we knew that this was work that we should do," Lopez-Bautista stressed.

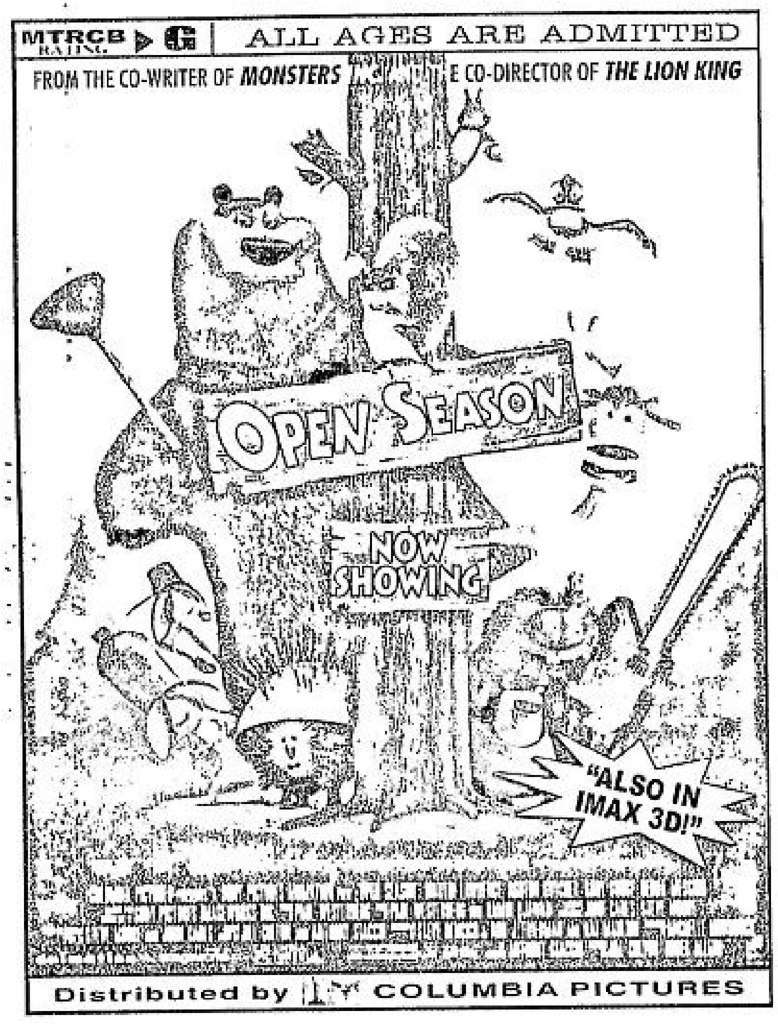
Research

In 1999, Rina decided to help address poverty using mass media, specifically her family's broadcast and cable TV networks: ABS-CBN and SkyCable. She zeroed in on the public educational system after research indicated a crisis there.

Richard Berman, who moderated the discussion, was so touched by Rina's story about the struggles of Hilmarie, a Knowledge Channel beneficiary from the highlands, that he offered the girl a four-year scholarship to Manhattanville College in New York.

Lopez-Bautista called on the UN, affiliate organizations and donor institutions to look at KCFI's work, and to invest in the country.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com


MTRCB G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
FROM THE CO-WRITER OF MONSTERS
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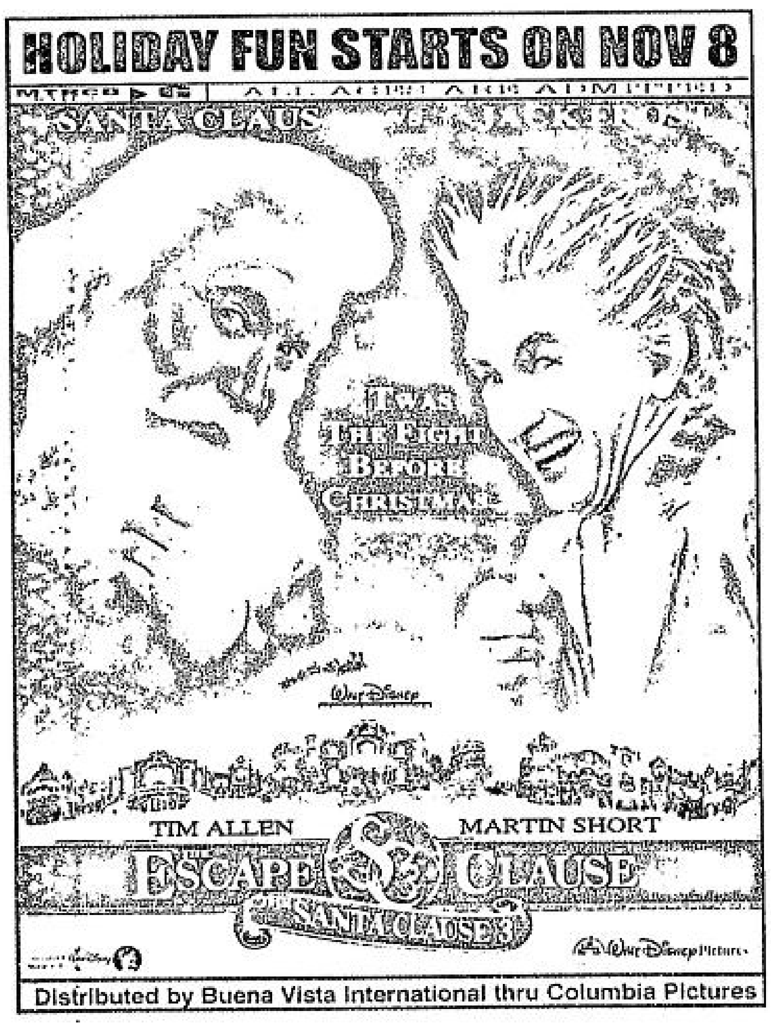
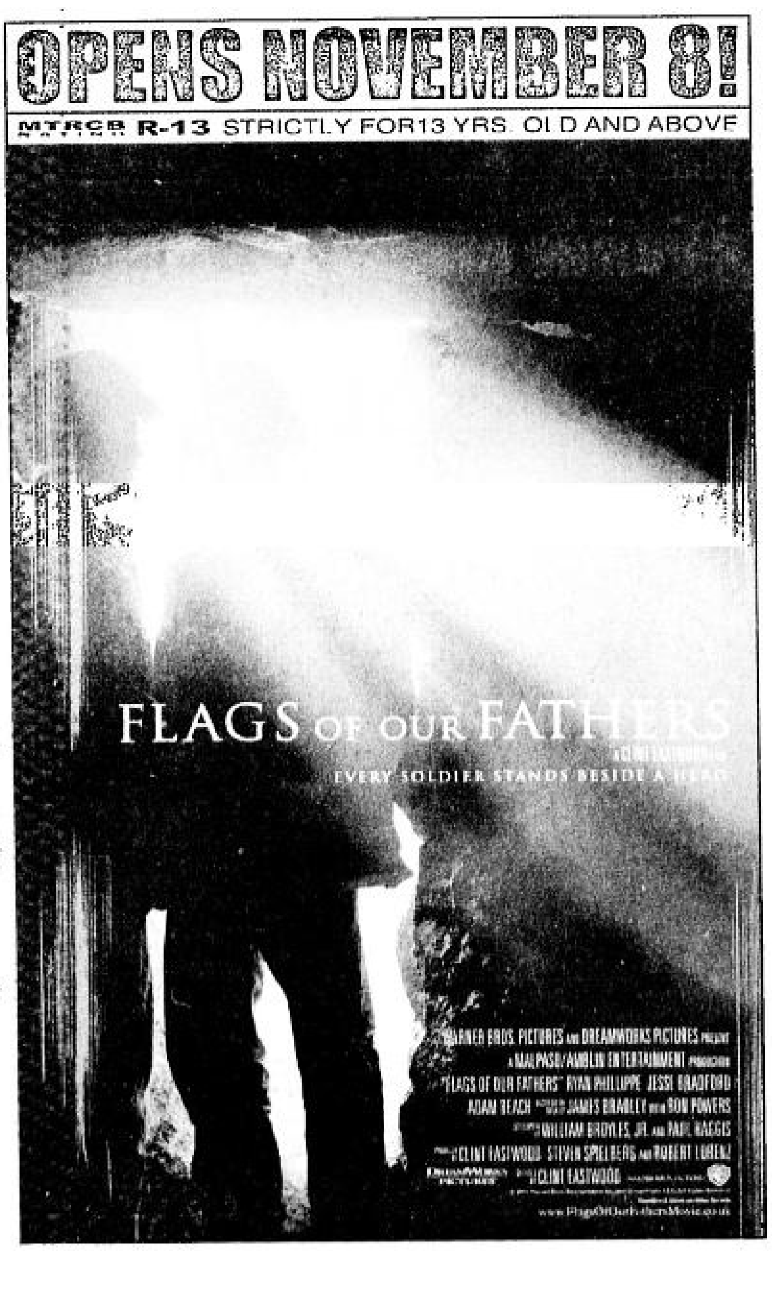
OPEN SEASON
NOW SHOWING
"ALSO IN IMAX 3D!"
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES


HOLIDAY FUN STARTS ON NOV 8
ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
SANTA CLAUS
T'WAS THE FIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
TIM ALLEN
MARTIN SHORT
ESCAPE CLAUSE
SANTA CLAUSE 3
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures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FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
EVERY SOLDIER STANDS BESIDE A HERO

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 THE PRESTIGE MTRCB R-13 1 00, 4:00, 7.00, 10 00
3 THE GRUDGE 2 MTRCB PG-13 12 10, 2:30, 4 50, 7:10, 9:30
2 OPEN SEASON MTRCB GP 1 05, 3 15, 5 30 7 45 10 00
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER MTRCB PG-13 1 40, 4 30, 7 15, 10 00
PREMIERE THEATRE THE BANQUET MTRCB PG 13 1 15 3 55 6 35 9 30
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On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99 00 for Cinemas 1-4.P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks.
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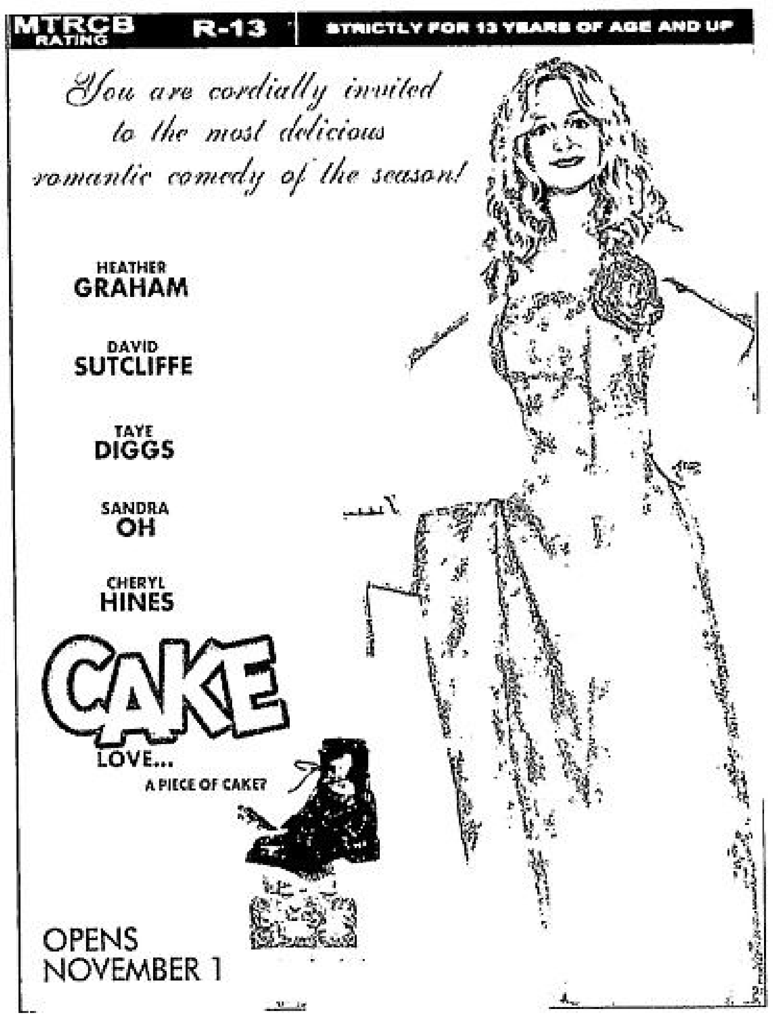
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza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CAKE
LOVE... A PIECE OF CAKE?
OPENS NOVEMBER 1

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CINEMA 1 WORLD TRADE CENTER 11:00, 1:45, 4:30 7:15, 10:00 PG13
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 OPEN SEASON 11:15, 1:25, 3:35 5:45, 7:55, 10:10 GP
CINEMA 4 THE GRUDGE 2 11:00, 1:20, 3:40 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 5 THE PRESTIGE 10:40, 1:35, 4:25 7:15, 10:10 R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
NOV. 10 & 11, 2006 | PINKY A., MONIQUE W., JUNO HENARES | 9:00 PM
NOV 16, 17, 23, 24, 29 & 30 | NINA | 9:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY | DANCE NIGHT | 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY | CERRUDO CLASSICO | 8:00PM
NOV. 3, 9 & 10 | ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA | 8:30 PM
NOV 14, 21, 28, DEC 5, 12 | DYORDS KO PO | 8:30 PM
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NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK

Suzuki Music Kids in concert

AT THE HALLOWEEN TREAT, "THE Monster Concert" at the Podium at 6 p.m. on Oct. 30, the Suzuki Music Kids will perform piano and violin pieces. The kids are students of the Greenhills Music Studio under Carmencita Arambulo and her son, Ariel.

CHILDREN from Greenhills Music Studio perform at the Podium on Oct. 30.

Mega's star-studded party

A star-studded party was held last Thursday at the SM Mall of Asia's Entertainment Center to welcome S magazine, Inside Showbiz magazine and Celebrity Living magazine to Mega Magazines & Publications' family. The event also marked S magazine's fifth anniversary and Inside Showbiz's second.

MONTAGE

The extravaganza drew big names in entertainment, media and advertising. It was hosted by Marvin Agustin, Say Alonzo, Carlos Agassi, Lovi, Cogie Domingo, Ryza Cenon, CJ Muere, Jackie Rice and Michael Agassi.

Guest performers included Side A, The Dawn, Wency Cornejo, Richard Merk, Megan Young, Baron Geisler, Jojo Alejar, Rachel Alejandro, Sheryn Regis, Ricky Davao, Lotlot de Leon, Sunshine Cruz, Cesar Montano and TJ Trinidad.

A highlight was Gener Gozum's fabulous holiday fashion show. The event was supported by SM Development Corp., Caronia, Gerry's Grill, Swan Catering Services, Silka, 90.7 Love Radio, 101.9 Yes FM and 93.9 IFM.

Barbie on the big screen

A special screening of "Barbie in the 12 Dancing Princesses" will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. today at Gateway Cineplex 10. Barbie stars as Princess Genevieve in the magical musical adventure, along with her 11 sisters. They live a carefree life until their Aunt Rowena lays down the law, and they escape. But, they return when they learn that their father's life is in danger.

Barbie fans .can catch the new adventure upon purchase of P200 worth of Magnavision titles at Musikland outlets at Ali Mall, Farmers or Gateway Cineplex lobby, or upon presentation of three used Gateway Cineplex tickets.

12
Dancing
PRINCESSES

BARBIE. Stars in her latest magical musical adventure.

Mina in Manila

Mina, Korea's dance diva, will perform on Nov. 24 at Araneta Coliseum and on Nov. 26 at Clark Expo. Her special guest in the Araneta Coliseum show is Christian Bautista. Mina is the most popular exponent of "K-pop," or Korean Pop Music, and is about to make her bid for international stardom. Call 911-5555.

'Killer Pigs'

On the National Geographic Channel at 1 p.m. on Oct. 31, "Killer Pigs" traces the origins of the deadly virus that swept Malaysia in 1999, and discovers a fatal mixture of clueless farmers, fruit bats and hungry pigs.

Frio on tour

The popular Frio band hits Ever Gotesco Ortigas on Nov. 11, Ever Gotesco Commonwelth on Nov. 18, and Ever Gotesco Recto on Nov. 24.

'Rome' on DVD

The award-winning TV series, "Rome," is now on DVD. The six-disc set chronicles the birth and death of the mighty Roman Empire. The package also includes an interactive onscreen guide prepared by the series' historical consultant, Jonathan Stamp.

Banquets at Tin Hau

Throughout the month of October, Mandarin Oriental Manila's premier Chinese restaurant, Tin Hau, offers six new menus to toast Ziyi Zhang's current cinematic starrer, "The Banquet."

The film's opulence and sense of drama are matched by Tin Hau's own special banquets, enticingly named Jasmine, Lotus, Emperor, Phoenix, Oriental and Mandarin. Diners also enjoy substantial discounts on select gourmet dishes. Call 750-8888, extension 2422.

'Let's Just Play' on Nov. 11

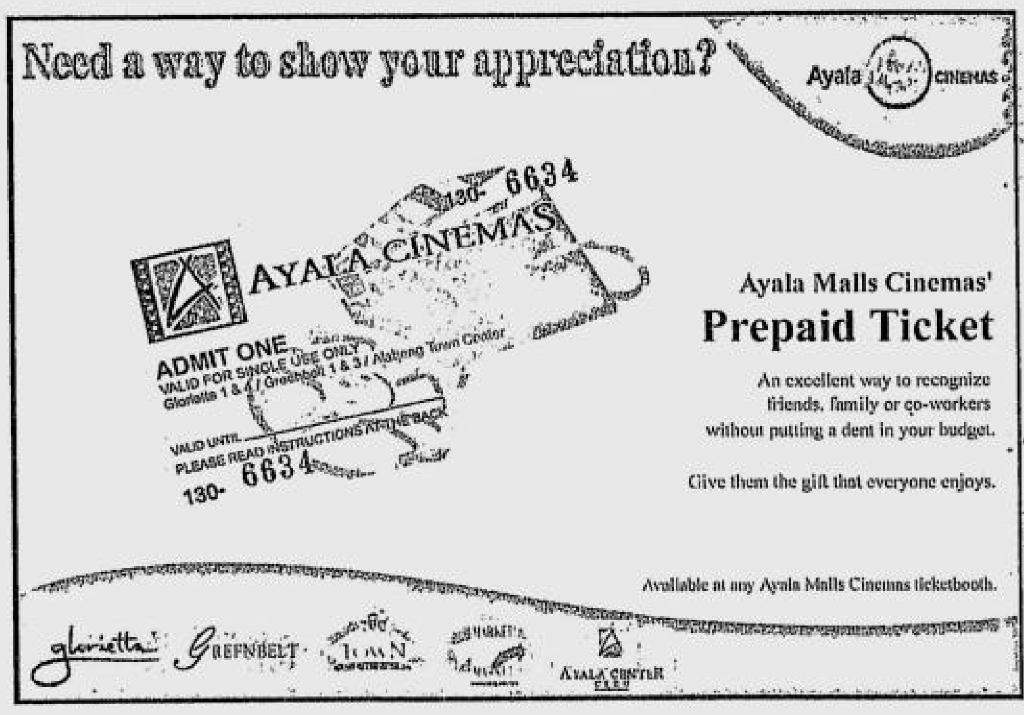
On Nov. 11, Nickelodeon converts the Adidas Sports Kamp at Bonifacio Global City into a dream Play Camp for kids for "Let's Just Play," the channel's acclaimed pro-social grassroots initiative for children. The campaign is dedicated to the promotion of physical activity, team spirit and fitness.

From 2 to 6 p.m., youths will spend one whole afternoon actively thinking, running, playing, eating and experiencing how it is to be happy, fit individuals through healthy and slimy fun. From 2 to 4 p.m., Nickelodeon will go dark to encourage kids to switch off their TV sets, get out of the house and play!

At the Adidas Sports Kamp, the event will be hosted by Noel dela Rosa and Hannah Bernardino, and will feature a Fun Field with simultaneous activities, including Nickelodeon's very own "Play Pledge,"

SUZUKI/ H3

"ROME." Chronicles the rise and fall of the mighty Roman Empire.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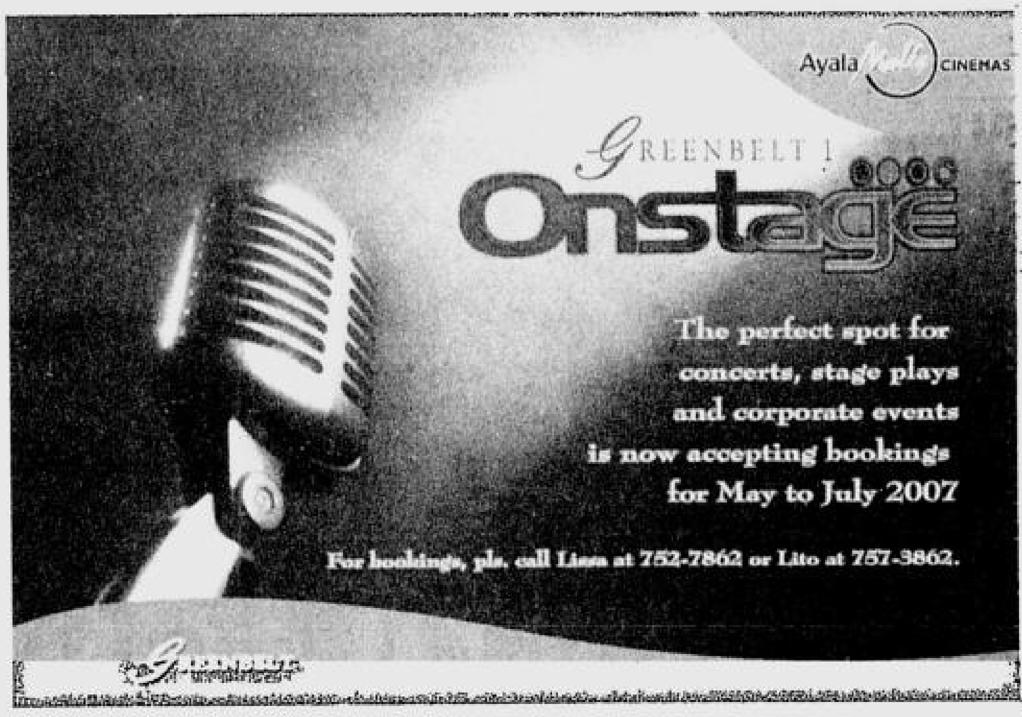
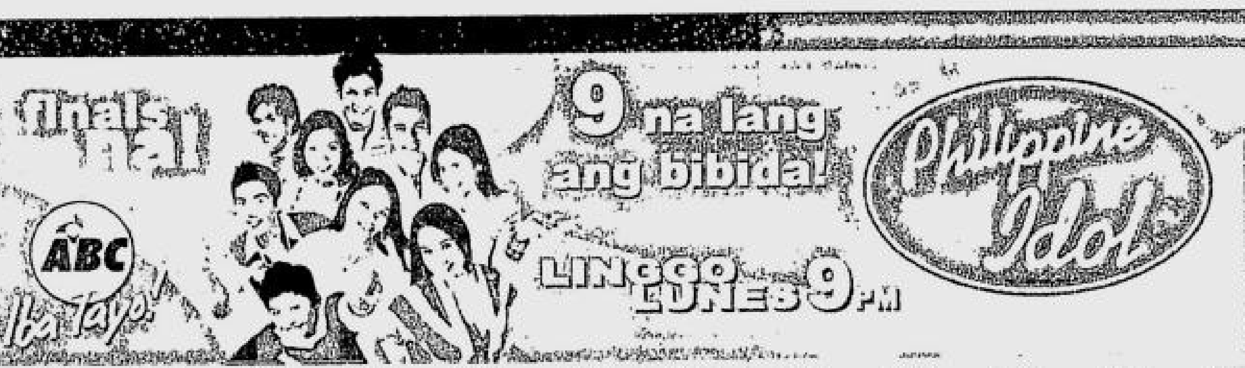

Ayala Malls Cinemas
Greenbelt 1
Onstage
The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays and corporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007
For bookings, pls. call Lissa at 752-7862 or Lito at 757-3862.
Greenbelt

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday, October 28, 2006


finals na!
ABC
Iba Tayo!
9 na lang ang bibida!
Linggo Lunes 9PM
Philippine Idol

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Lizzie Mcguire		Kids TV	DMV	PBA On Tour					Teka Mona		Ripley's Believe It Or Not		Philippine Idol			PBA On Tour		
ABS-CBN 2		Nagmamahal, Kapamilya		Let's Go		Star Magic Presents		Komiks: Pedro Penduko		John En Shirley		TV Patrol World	XXX		Pinoy Dream Academy		Aalog alog		Sports Unlimited
AXN		The One				AXN Shakedown		WRC 2006: Rally XS	E Buzz	The Ultimate Fighter (Season II)		Fear Factor		House (Season II)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Fear	
bTV				Vintage NBA		2006 Philippine [illegible] League [illegible]				2006 Philippine [illegible] League [illegible]				NBA Access	NBA Preseason: Nuggets Vs Clippers				
Cartoon Network	Camp Lazlo	Baby Looney Tunes	Tom & Jerry Tales	The Woody Woodpecker Show				Pokemon/The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Pokemon		Yogi & The Invasion Of Space [illegible]	Scooby-Doo On Zombie Island		The Grim Adventures Of [illegible] (8:45 PM)	Gundam Seed Destiny		The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	Ben 10
Cinema One	Hari Ng Sablay				Jologs				Kiss Mo Ko				The Sarah Balabagan Story		Shake, Rattle & Roll 2K5				
Cinemax	Evil Has A Face (2:45 PM)				One False Move			The Making Of [illegible] 2	Waterworld (6:45 PM)					Once Upon A Time In Mexico			The Flash (10:40PM)		
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN [illegible] Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Living [illegible] Art Of Life	World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN [illegible] Global Challenges	CNN Presents/Quest	Next@CNN	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Masterminds	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Bones		Prison Break		E-Ring		Haal			
Discovery Channel				Battleground: The Art Of War						Zoo Hour									
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Hannah Montana	American Dragon Yr. 2	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean	Wonderful World Of Disney			America's Funniest Home Videos 101 Dalmatians	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery/ Emperor's New School/ Kronk's New Groove	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Safeway Classic Presented By Pepsi 2nd Rd.				MLB World Series Game4							2006 Streetball	MLB World Series Game5 [illegible]					
ETC		Everwood		Friends	Will & Grace	Veronica Mars		The O.C.		Beauty And The Geek		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Nanny 911		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Skating With Celebrities		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land/ Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantastikids (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	Imbestigador (9:05 PM)			Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz [illegible]
Hallmark Channel		Drive Time Murders			[illegible] Walsh (4:45PM)				Hard Time				Hercules			Hercules (10:15PM)			
HBO		Ed TV				Warm Springs				Back To The Future Part II				The Skeleton Key			Six Feet Under [illegible]		U.S. Marshals
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High	Chrono Crusade	DNAngel	Fonzai Mario	Love Hina	Super Doll Licca	G3	Voltes V Evolution	[illegible] Weekend				Shaman King	Street Fighter
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop	Auto Review	EBC Earth Files		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics [illegible]		Bitag		Pilipinas Sabong Sports	Medtalk With Dr. Z		
JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Weekend At The O.C.	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Manshow
Lifestyle Network	HGTV Special		Napa Style	Sheer Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		How Do I Look		Style Star	E! Entertainment Special	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	MTV Arena	MTV Live	MTV Live Keane In Spain		MTV Live Muse In London		Cribs	My Own	The Hills	8th & Ocean	MTV Live Kjwan		MTV Hits		MTV Hits	Sessions The Dawn	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	MYXellaneous	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Amazing Moments		Relentless Enemies				Sea Hunters		About Asia		Ultimate Experience		Martial Arts Week		Martial Arts Week		No Borders	
NBN		Tenyaryo Alas-Tres		Tara Na Pilipino	The Working President	The Final Say ChaCha		Lakbayin Ang Magandang Pilipinas		Youth Voice Debate		GSIS Member's Hour		Isang Hour On NBN		A.S.K		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang [illegible]		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	The X's	Danny Phantom	[illegible] PreSchool Daze	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Estudyante Blues				Huwag Kang Lumingon				Kilabot At Kembot				Pangako Ng Kahapon				Sabado Nights
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		The Return Of Wonder Woman		Ayll Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				The Final Cut	
RPN 9		Go Negosyo		Biyaheng Langit	Badminton		Man & Machine	Just For Laughs		Wwe Raw		CSI: NY							
SBN 21								Barangay Uniting Thru Chess		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepards Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		IBF China Open Finals Women's Singles		FIVB Victoria-W		Hoop Nation		Billiards US 9 Ball		WNCAA		Rookie Manual	Pinoy Rider	UFC Pride/K1 Boxing				ECW	
Star Movies	Open Water			John Carpenter's Ghosts Of Mars			Species II (5:45PM)			AVP: Alien Vs. Predator (7:15PM)				Kingdom Of Heaven					Alexander (11:25PM)
Star World		Third Watch		Miami Vice		Philly		Sons & Daughters	The Drew Carey Show	One Tree Hill		TNA Xplosion		World's Most Amazing Videos		J.A.G		Mutant X	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Pinoy Dream Academy		Survivor Cook Islands		Just Deal	Barkada Nights					Real Deal

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Two takes on the life and legend of Audrey Hepburn

LOS ANGELES—THE season's book parade brings two biographical works on the late Audrey Hepburn: One is a frank, but sympathetic life story that tells of her extramarital affairs; the other a coffee-table book packed with memorabilia.

"Enchantment: The Life of Audrey Hepburn," by Hollywood biographer Donald Spoto, covers her life, her childhood under Nazi rule in Holland and Belgium, her inspiring work for Unicef, and her death from cancer in 1994.

HEPBURN. A biographer's dream—and nightmare.

Hefty

"The Audrey Hepburn Treasures," by Ellen Irwin and Jessica Z. Diamond, is a hefty, beautifully designed volume with biographical sequences, 200 photographs and envelopes containing copies of letters, contracts, clippings and snapshots.

Speaking from his home in Denmark, Spoto said that four years ago, he took "a hard look" at writings about Hepburn—including four biographies, picture books, and studies about her movies.

"They were books about *St.* Audrey," he said. "I think *that* alienates the subject from the reader; it doesn't bring people closer to the person in the stained-glass window. Readers would be more likely to empathize with a human being who suffered, and was insecure, like other human beings."

"Enchantment" is the most moving in accounts of Hepburn's war years, when she and her family nearly starved to death. She witnessed random shootings of civilians by German soldiers. Also dramatic are her last six years, when she abandoned her career to tour the world on behalf of sick and starving children.

Marriages

Spoto delves into her personal life, including a fling with William Holden, a married man, when they starred in "Sabrina" in 1954.

During her own marriages—to actor Mel Ferrer and to Rome psychiatrist Andrea Dotti—Spoto writes that she had passionate affairs with playwright Robert Anderson (who wrote the screenplay of 1959's "The Nun's Story"), and co-stars Albert Finney and Ben Gazzara.

"She desperately wanted to be loved; she didn't choose her husbands wisely," the author said. "Actresses often don't."

When Jack Warner bought the movie rights to "My Fair Lady" and cast Rex Harrison to repeat his Broadway role as Professor Higgins, he believed that he needed a film star to play the female lead. He chose Audrey Hepburn instead of Julie Andrews, who had initiated the role of Eliza Doolittle.

"There was a deception by Warner," said Spoto. "He told Audrey, 'It's going to be your voice singing the songs.' But, Marni Nixon had been lined up to dub the songs from the start. Warner sabotaged Audrey's Oscar by not letting her sing. Who would vote for an actress in a musical who *didn't* sing her songs?"

Hepburn reacted to the slight from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences with "enormous grace," appearing at the awards to present Rex Harrison's Oscar.

Treasure trove

"The Audrey Hepburn Treasures" resembles in size and weight a big-city telephone book. It is indeed a treasure trove of a remarkable life—with memorabilia dating from her Brussels birth through her London, New York and Hollywood years, and to her work with the children of African tribes.

Profits

Hepburn's first-born son, Sean Hepburn Ferrer, was the instigator of the book, a portion of the profits from which will benefit the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund. He holds the copyright, along with his half-brother, Luca Dotti.

The book was written by Irwin and Diamond, officials of the fund. "They know my mother's life better than anyone," Sean remarked.

"My mother was not very good about keeping clothes. If they were outdated, she'd give them to an aunt or cousins or museums," recalled Sean. "But, she kept all of her scripts, photos, and things that were meaningful to her."

Sean recalled "a strange thing" that happened six months before his mother's death: She spent six to eight weeks with her maid in the attic of her Swiss house, sifting through her collection of memorabilia. It was all orderly when her family found it after her death. In the early stages of "Enchantment," Sean was asked to participate. He declined.

Classic

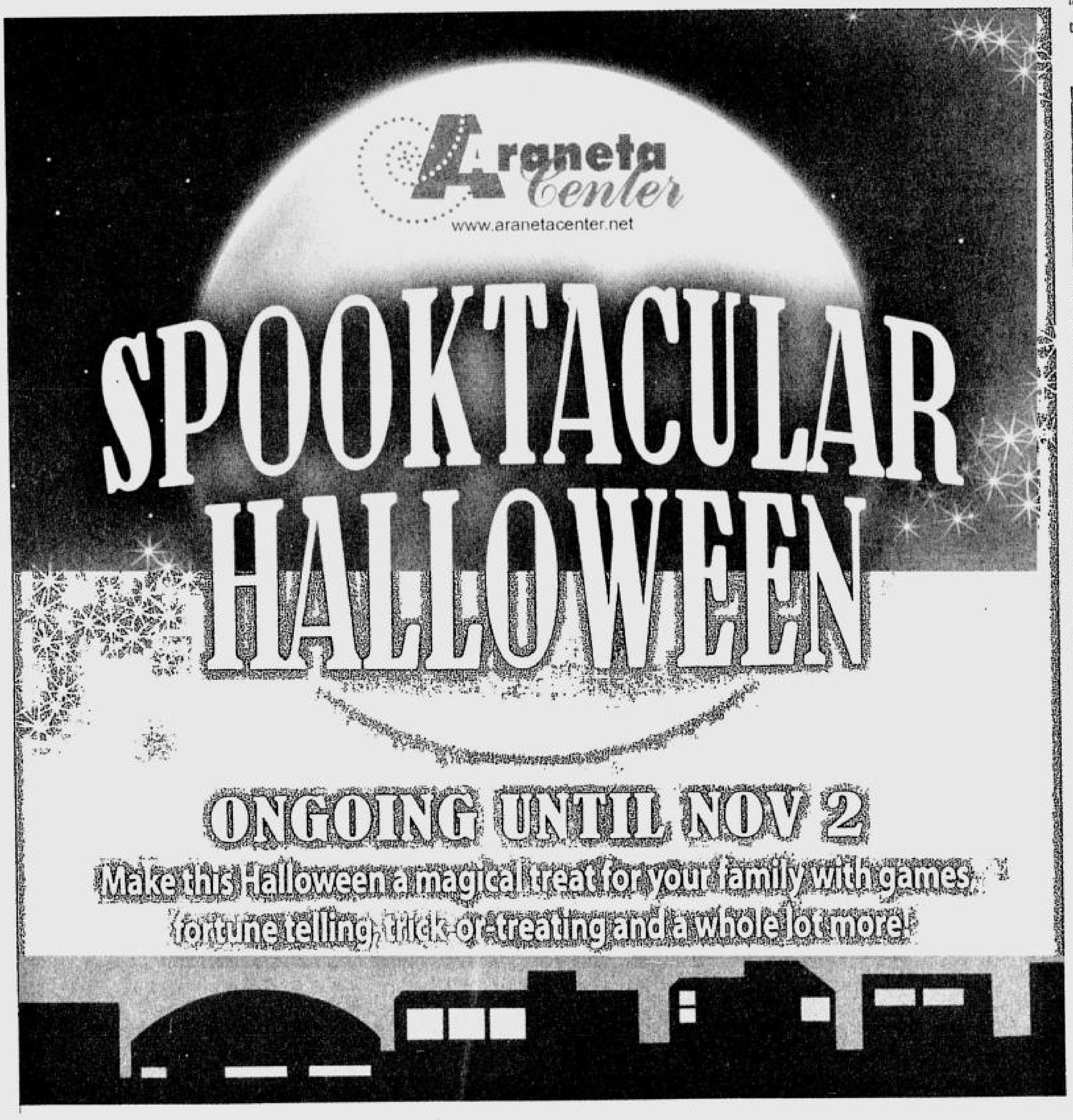
"My mother was a biographer's dream and nightmare," Sean said. "She was a dream, because she was a classic to write about—and everybody loves her. But, she was a nightmare because there are no scandals, quasi-cruelties—the *really* juicy stuff. How do you write a Hollywood biography *without* the scandalous tidbits?"

Sean had been aware of his mother's extramarital affairs, so Spoto's book would be no surprise for him. A question he is often asked: What was it like growing up as Audrey's son?

"My answer is something people don't expect: I have no idea!," he replied. "I grew up in the Switzerland countryside, and she was a regular mom. She quit doing movies when I couldn't travel anymore (because of school)."

"In those days (he was born in 1960), there was no DVD or VHS. In Europe, we had one black-and-white channel. It was only later that I 'connected' that she was an actress.

"Much later, I realized that she was a pretty good one! Only after she had passed away did I fully comprehend to what extent she had truly touched everyone." *AP*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Kids Depot Halloween Display
Oct 27 to Nov 2 • Gateway Mall

Kids Depot Halloween Fun
Oct 29 • Gateway Mall

Flower & Candles Selling
Oct 31 to Nov 1 • Farmers Plaza

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GRUDGE 2 PG13 1:45,3:50,6:05,8:15,10:25	OPEN SEASON G 12:00,2:00,4:00, :00,8:00	THE PRESTIGE R13 2:15,4:55,7:35,10:30
WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:35,5:10,7:45,10:20	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG13 12:50,3:05,5:20 ,7:35,9:50	THE BANQUET PG13 12:05,5:25 THE PRESTIGE R13 2:45

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